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Defense Minister Discusses Military Cuts

AU2810124693 Sofia BULGARSKA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 22 Oct 93 p 1

[Interview with Defense Minister Valentin Aleksandrov by Evelina Koleva, in Sofia on 21 October: "Drastic Cuts in Army Are Inevitable"]

[Text] On 21 October the Council of Ministers discussed for three hours the 1994 draft budget. According to the draft budget revenue will amount to 177.3 billion leva, and expenditure to 207.2 billion leva, so there will be a budget deficit of 30.1 billion leva or 6 percent of the GNP. The forecast annual inflation is 30 percent. After the discussion the cabinet decided to instruct Finance Minister Stoyan Aleksandrov to conduct separate talks with each ministry and department and to submit by 10 November the final draft of the 1994 budget to the Council of Ministers. During a brief recess Defense Minister Valentin Aleksandrov was kind enough to answer questions for BULGARSKA ARMIYA.

[Aleksandrov] I have signed a document in which I explicitly state that I disagree with the 1994 draft budget. If the cabinet nevertheless adopts it, it must also assume the political responsibility for cuts in the Army's officer corps. I said that a country without an army does not need a defense minister. It is absurd to ask the Ministry of Defense to cope with a budget of 12.9 billion leva.

[Koleva] One immediately notices that the expenditure on the current maintenance of the Army, capital investment, and scientific research and development have been mostly cut. Recently you sharply raised this issue at the National Assembly. Will the problem be exacerbated next year?

[Aleksandrov] Yes, it will.

[Koleva] On the other hand finance experts (and not only they), claim that if this draft budget is not adopted we will experience an economic collapse.

[Aleksandrov] Yes, there is such a view. It is very difficult to resolve the contradiction between needs and possibilities. It is a matter of responsibility that not only we ministers must assume. The responsibility must be shared with parliament, and even with the entire nation—naturally, only if they want to share it. If they do not want to—let them elect another government.

[Koleva] You stress the political aspects of the issue.

[Aleksandrov] For me it is very easy to resolve the issue in a technological manner. I have even noted four or five steps, but these will involve drastic cuts not only in personnel, but also in equipment. Generally, there will be cuts in all areas. I have drawn an analogy with the situation of the Army after 1918. Aleksandur Stamboliyski [prime minister in 1923] paid for this situation with his life several years later. I do not want to share his fate. A significant part of the officer corps will not accept such painful cuts. You know that if I now decide to apply the Law on General Military Service and retire all army personnel above the age of 50 there will be many vacant jobs and posts at all levels. Another cruel blow that the Army is suffering is its inability to carry out its recruitment policy properly. If we want to resolve the problem of the junior officers in a radical manner, we must ban college education prior to military service. Thus the nation's intellectual elite will have to pass through the reserve officers schools and then satisfy the need of platoon commanders. The shortage of such commanders is a problem which decreases the army's combat readiness. Initially, such a provision was included in the draft Law on Defense and the Armed Forces, but unfortunately, it was removed even before the law reached the National Assembly.

[Koleva] Some people say that it is impossible to spend more on defense, while hospitals and schools are being neglected.

[Aleksandrov] The Council of Ministers will additionally review the budgets of four ministries—the Ministries of Defense, Internal Affairs, Health, and Transportation. Obviously, the Ministry of Defense was included in this list of priority ministries. Nevertheless, let us not build up excessive hopes.

Official Response to U.S. Delegation Criticized

AU2810102493 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 22 Oct 93 p 1

[Article by Aleksandur Bozhkov: "The U.S. Mission in Bulgaria—Why They Came and What They Saw"]

[Text] These days the Sofia dailies are covering the visit of an U.S. delegation known as OPIC (the Overseas Private Investment Corporation). Very few people understood that it was actually the visit of an U.S. Government delegation, something which has not happened too often recently. Even the Bulgarian Government understood this, though after some delay. Hence, the prime minister felt obliged to write a hasty letter of welcome to the delegation and, subsequently, to receive its leader, who was carrying a letter from Bill Clinton to Zhelyu Zhelev, while the latter was conversing in French on the island of Mauritius [reference to Zhelev's participation in the congress of Francophone countries].

Apart from such trifles of protocol, let us nevertheless ask who the members of this delegation were, and what the purpose of their visit was.

The group was led by Mr. Christopher Finn, OPIC's executive chairman, and included two other high-ranking representatives of this government agency, which was established to render overall assistance for U.S. private investment abroad.

The group also included representatives of the largest U.S. corporations, such as Texaco, Babcock-Wilcox,

Dupont, Teledyne, Honeywell, and Ninex. Together with them, the representatives of some other companies that are less well known in our country, but nonetheless important, were also part of the group, such as Blek and Veech [as transliterated] (infrastructure projects and water supplies), Cleveland Trenchers (digging machines and agricultural equipment), the American International Group (insurance company), Six-Twelve (franchising), and so forth.

These large corporations were represented by a special group of people, their so-called "investigators." They did not come to conclude deals. It is significant that they had only a few meetings with representatives of specific enterprises, but rather tried to establish contacts with official institutions, such as the Ministry of Finance, The Privatization Agency, the Geological Prospecting Committee, the Power Engineering Committee, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of the Environment, the Foreign Investment Commission, and banks. The guests had come to investigate the state of the Bulgarian economy, to check on the stability of our political system, on the activities of Bulgarian politicians and businessmen, and on our willingness for economic integration with the world.

They left with mixed feelings. They pointed out Bulgaria's great assets, such as its excellent geographical situation, its highly educated people, and its industrial sectors with their enormous potential. At the same time they did not spare us some amazingly accurate evaluations. Some of the participants were particularly impressed that the subject of privatization was mentioned only in theory, while everyone was explaining how much money was needed to consolidate state enterprises. In addition to this, our representatives, generally speaking, repeated their favorite phrase: "What I need is money, not mere advice!" Such is the typical attitude of our post-communist economic bosses. Just because they used to be able to waste the state's money irresponsibly, while playing the role of foreign trade specialists and experienced businessmen abroad, today they are convinced that they know everything about management, marketing, and financial transactions. They just need somebody to give them a pile of money, which they know how to spend in the best way.

The results of the recent visit are not likely to become apparent immediately. As one of the guests said, large corporations are like governments, in that they act slowly, with long-term strategic goals. The "investigators" are expected to write their reports and submit their ideas. The first expert groups are expected to arrive in the spring of 1994. Investment will presumably start within a year. Let us hope, that another, more serious government will take over in the meantime.

Passenger, Goods Traffic From Serbia Increases

AU2810141293 Sofia BTA in English 1342 GMT 28 Oct 93

["Traffic Across Bulgaria's Western Border Gets Heavier"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, October 28 (BTA)—Nearly 500,000 passengers have entered Bulgaria by 5,600 coaches and cars through the two border crossings in the Kyustendil area (southwestern Bulgaria)—Gyueshevo (on the Bulgaria-Macedonian border) and Oltomantsi (on the Bulgarian-Serbian border) this year, a BTA correspondent reported from Kyustendil. According to statistics, passenger traffic in the opposite direction was lighter—400,000 passengers and 3,540 vehicles.

Trucks displayed the opposite trend: 33,200 TIR [International Road Transport] trucks left Bulgaria as against 31,600 entering it, according to data provided by the regional customs office. The capacity of the two checkpoints on the Bulgarian side was 120 trucks a day in one direction.

The stream of passengers crossing from Serbia through Bregovo and Vrushka Chuka in the Vidin region (northwestern Bulgaria) is on the increase, BTA's local correspondent reported today. Over 6,000 Serbs cross the border daily in both directions, as against 1,000 Bulgarians. Serbs usually come to Bulgaria to buy petrol, food and other prime necessities.

Havel Addresses Independence Anniversary Rally

LD2810221493 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1920 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Address by President Vaclav Havel at gala meeting in the Vladislav Hall of Prague Castle commemorating the 75th anniversary of independent Czechoslovakia]

[Excerpts] Esteemed gala assembly, esteemed fellow citizens: It is 75 years today since the people of the Czech lands rose to proclaim an independent state in keeping with the efforts of their political leaders for many years. Soon afterwards, Slovak society too gave its support to Slovak political representatives who, together with Czech leaders, took part in the resistance movement. Czechoslovakia came into existence on that very day, a state which in the course of 20 years of its existence between the two world wars, enjoyed general respect as one of the islands of order and democracy in the then unquiet Europe, despite various differences with which the country was burdened internally.

The preamble of our constitution says that the Czech Republic subscribes to all the good traditions of Czechoslovak statehood. This means that we follow up naturally on everything precious we have received as a legacy from the first Czechoslovak Republic [1918-38], that is, all the values on which it was founded, such as parliamentary democracy, the idea of a state based on law, an orientation on Western liberal civilization. Not only this, but also tolerance, decency, humanity, and joint responsibility for public matters, too. [passage omitted]

I believe that today we have the best prerequisites to further develop these good traditions. The principles on which we are building the Czech Republic, as well as the ideals to which we aspire, are identical to those with which the founders of Czechoslovakia were guided. We therefore subscribe with full justice our adherence to 28 October as our national holiday.

There is, nevertheless, a difference here. Czechoslovakia no longer exists. A not insignificant section of Slovak society gave their support in an election to political representatives who, after complex constitutional talks, gave priority to an independent state before the further existence of the federation. The Czechs respected that will.

Despite this, it does not serve any purpose to convince ourselves that nothing has happened. Many of us, perhaps subconsciously and without admitting it, feel the division of Czechoslovakia as a failure. It would not be natural if this were not so. After all, the Czechs, like those who fought with such distinction for the establishment of Czechoslovakia and who identified themselves with it throughout the whole time of its existence and therefore felt a stronger responsibility for it, can hardly be indifferent to its demise.

History does not and indeed cannot be guided by the logic of sentiments. If we understand this we shall then also understand that we shall not cope with the wound which was inflicted on many of us by the country's division by denying or minimizing it nor by torturing ourselves and by pining for what no longer exists and worry ourselves by the question whether what has wounded us could not have been somehow prevented. The only possible course forward is to face the truth and creative work on a future which will quite naturally heal that wound.

Democracy, the expression of universal values, genuine Europeanism—there lies our future. If we are magnanimous, courageous, and wise we do not need to fear anything. Our enemy is not history which has narrowed the cultural and geographical dimension of our homeland. Our enemy could only be our faint-heartedness, defeatism, nostalgia, lack of vision, provincialism, and isolationism.

If we become introspective and limit our horizon and identity merely by our Czechness, and if we succumb to sentimental flag-waving, lack of trust in others, and the feeling that now we have to devote ourselves only to ourselves we will harm ourselves more than our division could have ever done. [passage omitted]

The Czech Republic is again becoming a respected member of the family of European states. The course and existing results of its political and economic transformation are generally recognized. If we want to continue along this path successfully it will be enough if we are quietly ourselves—decent, reliable, open to the views of others, and at the same time unostentatiously loyal to ourselves and to all the best that exists in our community. The more we are successful in this endeavor the better we shall be able to look in the face of our forefathers, including those who stood at the birth of Czechoslovak democracy and who defended it courageously and selflessly at various times. Our national existence cannot be merely our national program. Good human acts must also be such a program. Thank you for your attention.

Klaus Addresses Rally

LD2810230093 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1929 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Speech by Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus at a gala gathering in Prague Castle commemorating the 75th anniversary of an independent Czechoslovakia—live]

[Excerpts] Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: We have gathered in this beautiful historic hall to celebrate today's national day and recall the events that took place 75 years ago, as well as to give a deserving interpretation of events which were of such a decisive importance for the further history of our nation. We have also gathered here to take a closer look at ourselves in this broader context, in other words, in the period in which we live and with the considerable tasks we ourselves are facing.

The rise of the Czechoslovak state on 28 October 1918 acquires a new and different meaning if coupled with the

anniversary we will soon recall, the anniversary of the Velvet Revolution in November 1989, which once again opened—and let's hope that this time for good—the path toward freedom and democracy for Czechs and Slovaks alike. Another historic occasion has come about and it is now up to us not to miss it. [passage omitted]

Without wanting to underestimate in any way the importance of many years of Czech-Slovak coexistence and the contribution it indisputably brought to each of us, I think it is only natural that after the last year's division of the federation, we should see the rise and the existence of our initial state above all from a Czech view point. [passage omitted]

If we assess the past 75 years, we can conclude that we want to continue the tradition of the free democratic Czechoslovakia [the period between 1918-1938] because we cannot afford to discard the memory of the most precious democratic tradition which marked this period in particular. We do not wish to continue the temporary arrangements of the Second Republic [between September 1938 and March 1939] when the floodgates of very lowly instincts and passions opened, both in terms of the country as such and its individual citizens. The situation then was not easy and it was not we who brought this situation about, but we must be aware that these instincts and passions are still concealed in us.

We cannot build on the unfortunate period of the [Boehmen und Mahren] Protectorate. Although we managed to live through these years, they failed to provide us with a good springboard for the trials to come.

We are unable to follow unreservedly the developments that took place in the three postwar years. This period was characterized by concession making, a lack of continuity, and the creeping rise of the elements characteristic of the communist regime which followed. At the same time, it was it was precisely this period which presented a glimmer of hope.

We do not wish to regard the period of the totalitarian communist dictatorship as a basis for our actions, and we cannot do so, although the present period shows that our preparedness for its end was a little better than that of some of our neighbors.

I am absolutely convinced, however, that we can be proud of the period between November 1989 and the present, and that we want to, and must, build on this period. In less then four years we have succeeded in coping with the overwhelming majority of the tasks of getting rid of the communist legacy as well as the overwhelming majority of the tasks of the standard type of institutions of a parliamentary democracy and market economy.

At the same time, we are attempting the first small steps in what for most of us is a totally new environment. These small steps are somewhat hesitant and uncertain, as though they were being taken after a long illness. Nevertheless, they are aiming in the right direction and the first results are certain. We have now an enormous opportunity. Now, too, there is a fragile teamwork between politicians and citizens; now, too, there is a complicated discontinuity while (?we seek) a rational one. Now, too, there is a national unity which we call today, in a modern fashion but nonetheless no less exactly than before, a political and social consensus, and we are making use of it for the creative activity of all of us.

If we succeed in ensuring that the new Czech patriotism does not indulge in ostentatious phrases and theatrical gestures, if we succeed in ensuring that it is positive and active, we will be able to look forward with confidence to any trials, and the future will certainly confront us with trials. Only then will we be able to live with the confidence that we have fulfilled the legacy of 28 October 1918.

Thank you for your attention.

Parliament Speaker Gives Speech

LD2810231193 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1920 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Address by Parliament Speaker Milan Uhde at gala gathering in the Vladislav Hall of Prague Castle commemorating the 75th anniversary of independent Czechoslovakia—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The idea of a unitary Czechoslovak nation was risky. The champions of this idea assessed as futile the whole Slovak effort of more than half a century, to establish their own Slovak culture and to revive their own Slovak nation. They awoke a sense of injustice among the Slovaks, which marred the happiness of being saved from Magyarization. The risk of Czech and Slovak coexistence ended after several crises with a voluntary parting of the ways. But it cannot be said it was barren. Without this risk and without goodwill on both sides, there would not be a Slovak nation and neither would there be its present independence. [passage omitted]

The Czech Republic cannot avoid risky situations, even today. If the deep economic, political, legal, and moral transformation of our society, essential in overcoming the negative consequences of past mistakes, fails, and if Europe does not become a home of cooperation but simultaneously becomes separate small and large nations, it would have a fatal influence on us. Hazardous situations are our share. We inherited them, but it is an inheritance we cannot, and must not reject. It is simultaneously our feeding ground. [passage omitted]

Zieleniec Views Eastern States' Role in Europe

AU2810112393 Prague TELEGRAF in Czech 23 Oct 93 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec by Frantisek Kostlan; place and date not given: "The Best Method for Nearing Europe—To Work Diligently at Home"]

[Text] We spoke with Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec about the changes in Europe after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and its colonies, and the prospects of the Czech Republic in the future.

[Kostlan] Minister, our foreign policy is logically oriented towards cooperation with the Western democratic countries. So far, however, it seems that some of them do not take us sufficiently seriously, particularly with regard to the depth and speed of the changes that took place in this country. Of course, this can be understood in the broad context of the overall changes in Central and Eastern Europe, but sometimes it is hard to avoid the impression that perceptions of the countries of the former Soviet empire are not sufficiently differentiated.

[Zieleniec] I would say that your view is correct, but it is an assessment burdened by the perspective of the present. It is a fact that we are not going West but rather that we are its historical part. This cannot be altered even by the fact that for 40 years we were artificially separated and drawn under the sway of the Soviet empire. This implies that our integration into Western Europe cannot be the result of a short-term political process. In time, the historical context will be revived and we will become a member of the family of the Western European states and the appropriate structures. The problems that we are currently experiencing in this respect can have only a minute impact on the issue.

The Soviet empire was to a great extent one of the elements holding the West together. The bipolar world actually created the key institutions of the West, from NATO to the EC. These institutions are now seeking a new vision, a meaning for their existence. This has to do with the general quest for a new face for Europe.

Expressed in simple terms, Europe is asking where its eastern border is. The search for an answer to this question will take a while yet. Part of this discussion is the political process that is currently taking place in the countries of Eastern and Central Europe. I am convinced that the best method to become a part of Western Europe and its structures is to work diligently at home. We know that our country is rooted in Western European—if you wish, western Christian—values, and the efforts that we make for economic reform, the stabilization of society, the launching of the operation of all the state institutions, are what one day will integrate us into the appropriate European institutions. I believe it is only a question of time before they will start asking in the West European countries why we are not members of this or that institution. I know that this historical development is irrevocable, and the prism of the past 40 years that has Eastern and Central Europe perceived as a single entity, as a group of states with rather obfuscated political prospects, can be changed above all by our own endeavors.

[Kostlan] Changes have also been occurring in the West since the bipolar world collapsed. You said yourself, and it has recently often been discussed also in Western Europe, that for example NATO is also looking for a new form and meaning for its existence. Does our foreign policy have any idea what the final stage of NATO's security policy and structure should be like?

[Zieleniec] I do not believe it is productive in politics to contemplate the final stages. Whatever they may be. We have to ponder where our values will take us. That is the way of thinking of those who discuss the future face of Europe and its institutions. I believe that, if the other states of Central and Eastern Europe approach it as we do, the natural transformation of Europe will be a joint outcome, together with the efforts of the Western Europeans. It is futile and unnecessary to argue whether this or that one should be a member of NATO or the European Community; who should join first and who later. I believe that the citizens of those states must realize that knocking on the doors of Brussels, the seat of the European Community and the seat of NATO, is not what forms Europe and its institutions. It is formed by the ability of citizens of individual countries to focus on the values that hold Western Europe together. It is the only approach that can gradually form Europe. If the Western European institutions proceeded contrarily, and I do not believe that they ever would because they have not done so in the past, it could happen that the viable Western European institutions would turn into another UN or CSCE. That is, institutions which have an element of universality but pay for it with a low ability to act.

[Kostlan] Of course, you prefer patient work. There are endeavors to obtain non-permanent member status on the UN Security Council, and you have recently signed the European Agreement. That apparently is one of the elements you mentioned as important for getting closer to the European Community.

[Zieleniec] Yes. The European Agreement, or the Association Agreement with the European Community, is basically, seen from a legal point of view, a business contract between two entities on conditions of trade, tariffs, non-tariff conditions, etc. In addition to this level, which is important for us because the European Community is a giant trade partner, the Association Agreement has the significance of a signal, a step in the direction of integration. That also is how it is perceived both in the Czech Republic and in the European Community.

[Kostlan] Minister, in your address to the UN General Assembly you again appealed to the West to open up its markets to us. The prime minister and our other leading politicians use every opportunity to do the same. Do you expect this to happen in the foreseeable future, for instance in the context of the GATT meeting?

[Zieleniec] I do not believe that the GATT meeting has such key significance for us. Undoubtedly it is an affair important for the whole world, with background conflicts of interests gaining in visibility. The best known is the dispute between the United States and France. If an agreement were reached, however, it would generally improve the atmosphere in international trade and it would undoubtedly help us, too.

Our problem, as opposed to the problems of Western countries, is of a much greater political dimension. For them, these are actually questions concerning, above all, the trade and tariff measures imposed by individual states in international trade. Here, and that is the reason why the prime minister and I speak about it so frequently, it is to a great extent a political question. I would even go as far as to say a question of domestic policy. You know that discussions are taking place in the Czech Republic about the possible solution to the situation in agriculture, for instance. While we want to build a modern economy based on efficient private ownership, some say that agriculture must be protected to guarantee the prosperity of the people living in the country. An important argument on this side is that Western Europe does the same in relation to us. The producers of inferior goods, which are not competitive, use this as a basis for their calls for more and more protection. We are at a stage, however, when the situation is being stabilized and traditions are being started for many years to come. If we accepted this logic today, our economy would pay for it with lower efficiency and quality for decades. Therefore, I believe that it is important to point out to our Western partners that they should take the slogans about free trade being one of the pillars on which the Western democratic system stands more seriously than they have done so far. We took them seriously as we drafted the basis for the orientation of our system. It is very important to us and it is also connected with the quality of our reform. It is, however, also a problem of the openness of Western Europe to us. It is incongruous if some assistance is offered to us now and then, such as sending us Western experts, etc.—I would even go as far as to say that such assistance sometimes actually delays the solution. The proclamations about our state getting gradually closer to Western Europe are not accompanied by opening doors for business cooperation.

For our part, I keep reminding our partners in the West that the symbolic and political levels of the problem are more important than the business one.

Interior Minister Says Russia Fears Isolation

AU2810192093 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 25 Oct 93 p 2

[Interview with Interior Minister Jan Ruml by "km"-signed correspondent; place and date not given: "The Czech Republic Has Not Changed Its Intentions To End Up Part of NATO"]

[Text] Prague—Interior Minister Jan Ruml believes that Russia rejects the idea of some East European states, including the Czech Republic, joining NATO because it fears isolation.

"During a recent working visit to the Russian Federation, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov informed me about Russia's stance on the Czech Republic's efforts to join NATO. I can only generally paraphrase his rendition of this stance: Russia fears isolation," Jan Ruml stated in an interview for MLADA FRONTA DNES.

[MLADA FRONTA DNES] What is you opinion regarding the conceivable integration of the Czech Republic into the West European security structures?

[Ruml] The admission of the Czech Republic to NATO will be for me a definite confirmation of the post-November development. I believe that we are approaching this by the logic of our steps in all areas. This development has two stages. The first is a declarative political one—and I personally witnessed it at the talks between President Vaclav Havel and former Federal Interior Minister Jan Langos, and the adviser to President George Bush for questions of national security and the U.S. secretary of defense in 1991. The second one is the working stage, and it depends solely on our ability to be in all aspects compatible with Western Europe.

[MLADA FRONTA DNES] Can your sector in some way contribute to a faster admission to NATO? If so, how?

[Ruml] I am building on the work of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, which has signed many bilateral security treaties with West European states. We are participating in all international forums dealing with problems of Europe-wide significance, for instance, terrorism, migration, or narcotics. We are very active in the implementation of the idea of Europol, which is supposed to be something like a European FBI, and we are holding talks on adjusting our legal security norms so as to correspond with EC norms.

Havel Writes Letter to Belarus Parliament Chairman

AU2810135493 Prague CTK in English 2148 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, Oct 25 (CTK)—Vying for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council will not sour relations between the Czech Republic and Belarus, reads a personal letter from Czech President Vaclav Havel to Chairman of Belarussian Parliament Stanislav Shushkevich.

Speaking to CTK today on the phone from Minsk, where he handed Shushkevich the letter, Czech Ambassador Rudolf Slansky said that the Belarussian representatives had welcomed the letter. The Czech Republic is striving for cooperation with Belarus, and not for competition, Slansky said, adding that friendly relations between the two countries would continue to grow.

In Minsk, Slansky also met Belarusian foreign minister Pyotr Kravchenko.

Schushkevich told Slansky that he would like to invite Havel to Belarus, but did not mention a date.

Ten non-permanent seats, out of which one is reserved for a post-communist Eastern European country, have been set up in the Security Council.

Hungary's term expires at the end of this year.

Vote on the non-permanent seat is to take place on 29 October, with the Czech Republic and Belarus being the only two candidates.

Officials View Aspin's Stance on NATO Expansion

AU2710204693 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 22 Oct 93 pp 1, 12

[Report by "gag, tos": "The U.S. Rejection Is Not a Disappointment; Antonin Baudys: The Army Is Ready To Cooperate With the Troops of the Alliance"]

[Excerpts] Prague—Has President Vaclav Havel's speech [to parliament on 12 October] and the wide-ranging debate among politicians in the media about our admission into NATO been followed by a cold shower? Such an impression may arise at first glance. We asked Defense Minister Antonin Baudys for his point of view.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Have you been disappointed by U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin's negative stance on the Central European post-communist countries' early admission into NATO?

[Baudys] No, I even welcome his statement very much. Les Aspin did not say anything else then that the United States counts on a certain form of interaction between NATO states and the countries declaring their intention to join NATO. The United States proposes that individual contracts of cooperation be concluded with these countries. I find his statement—and, so I hope, its consequences as well—very sympathetic. I am not surprised. It would have been unwise to expect more.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Nonetheless, on several occasions, you have expressed the wish that NATO admit us as soon as possible.

[Baudys] But that can be the case in one, two, five, or even 10 years. Regarding our integration into NATO, the "maturity" of the Czech Army is only a secondary consideration. As a matter of fact, it is, essentially, prepared even today for closer cooperation with the troops of the alliance. Linguistic ability is, perhaps, a certain problem, as well as the systems of command.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] The objections of Russia, which is afraid of finding itself in some kind of international isolation once its former satellites are admitted into NATO, cannot be ignored either.

[Baudys] Russia must not be excluded from this process. However, Russia itself will determine how it will come to terms with its internal problems and what sort of attitude it will assume toward the security of Europe. The responses to these questions will determine whether Russia will or will not be included in the further integration process. The defense alliance's extension to the East means the expansion of the area of security and not the further pushing ahead by an aggressive alliance.

What are the views of other Czech political representatives? [passage omitted]

"I do not think that this statement [by Les Aspin] tells us anything new," Civic Democratic Party [ODS] Executive Deputy Chairman Petr Cernak said. Cernak is convinced that our Army is not ready to join the North Atlantic alliance, for reasons ranging from communication among soldiers to the technical aspect of the army's equipment. "I do not think that the precipitate wish to become a member of NATO is based on realistic judgment and the assessment of our potentials. The views of those who will admit us into NATO are far more realistic in this regard," Petr Cernak concluded.

"We understand this [statement by Les Aspin] as part of the debate within NATO member countries on what shape this organization should take and who might possibly become involved in its structures and activities," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Lucie Pilipova told us.

European Parliament Ratifies Association Agreement

LD2710200193 Prague CTK in English 1813 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Brussels, Oct 27 (CTK)—The European Parliament (EP) in Strasbourg today ratified the European agreement on the Czech Republic's association with the European Community (EC).

A total of 329 deputies voted for the approval of the accord, one deputy voted against it and three abstained from the vote. EC association agreements of the Slovak Republic, Romania and Bulgaria were approved at the same time.

After the ratification of the agreement by the European Parliament it has to be ratified by EC individual member states.

ODS Asks for Government Coalition Meeting

AU2810140193 Prague CTK in English 0743 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Prague Oct 26 (CTK)—The Executive Council of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), at its extraordinary session last night, charged ODS Chairman and Premier Vaclav Klaus to convoke the government coalition four as soon as possible, ODS Spokeswoman Jana Petrova told CTK without specifying the topic of the talks.

The coalition comprises the ODS, the Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-CSL), the Christian Democratic Party (KDS) and the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA).

In its statement adopted at the session, the Executive Council supported the consistent stands taken by Finance Minister Ivan Kocarnik (ODS) and Labour and Social Affairs Minister Jindrich Vodicka (ODS) in tripartite negotiations.

The tripartite must not become the battle field for tackling the problems which in a democratic system must be solved by the parliament, the statement says.

The tripartite consists of representatives of government, the unions and employers. It aims to maintain social peace during the period of transition from the central command economy to a market one.

The statement said that the ODS Executive Council was concerned about the unnecessary politicising of the preparations for October 28, the Czech Republic's national holiday, and called for it to be marked with dignity.

It confirmed the statement by ODS Deputy Chairman Petr Cermak from October 21 that the ODS supports dignified, very modest and very cheap celebrations of the national holiday and it is not preparing any official demonstration.

Klaus will leave for Brno, South Moravia, on October 28, and ODS ministers will be celebrating the holiday in various regions of the Czech Republic.

In conclusion, the statement said that the use of part of the proceeds from privatisation concentrated in the National Property Fund to pay off the debts inherited from the communist management period is in harmony with the policy of healthy state finance and with the policy of a balanced state budget.

KDS Chairman Warns of Problems Still Ahead

AU2710125493 Prague CTK in English 1620 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Berlin Oct 23 (CTK)—Chairman of the Czech Christian Democratic Party (KDS) Vaclav Benda told delegates at the 25th conference of the World League for Freedom and Democracy that the Czech Republic was on a very risky and untried path where we can still be overtaken by pro-communist forces.

Nevertheless the coalition government, in which the KDS is a member, had successfully pushed through a fundamental economic policy of maximum privatisation in the face of opposition from the left and from practically all international institutions, Benda said.

He said that the Czech Republic was the last post-communist state in which, in spite of all the problems, political and economic changes were still continuing and which has a reasonable chance of demonstrating that the transition from totalitarianism to democracy can be achieved within a realistic time-frame.

The Czech Republic therefore had a responsibility also for all neighbouring countries, he said, adding: If we fail too, there is a real danger a new Iron Curtain will descend.

Amendment to Law Expands Police Powers

LD2610225793 Prague CTK in English 2131 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Prague, Oct 26 (CTK)—The Czech cabinet, at its session today, approved an amendment to the law on the Czech police and on the employment conditions of members of the force, government spokeswoman Klara Pospisilova told journalists today.

She said that the amendment expands the powers of the police and assumes that the court will grant permission to the Czech police to use operational techniques. Part of the amendment focuses on securing the smooth continuation of the activities of the railroad police.

The expansion of police powers concerns four basic areas. First, in connection with corruption within the police itself, the amendment should anchor the expansion of the powers of the Interior Ministry inspectorate so that it can utilise the same means as the criminal police. In addition, it will allow the police to intern foreigners who remain on Czech territory and should be deported for up to 30 days, instead of 24 hours.

The amendment should also give police the right to disarm a person who appears aggressive and the right to enter an area open to the public but privately owned, for instance night clubs, bars and discos.

New Territorial Administration Plan Prepared

AU2810135393 Prague CTK in English 2103 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Prague, Oct 25 (CTK)—A new territorial administration stands a real chance of being passed in parliament in time for the 1994 local elections, Pavel Zarecky, deputy head of the Civil Administration and Legislation office, told CTK today.

The office is directed by Czech Deputy Premier Jan Kalvoda.

Zarecky was speaking after a meeting of heads of district councils and officials from the Civil Administration Office.

Zarecky said his organization's plan proposes 13 regions and the separation of state administration from regional self-government, while another proposal from the interior ministry envisages 8 regions with one regional agency responsible both for state administration and self-government, he said.

The Civil Administration Office plan has worked out proposals for bills considered necessary to implement the plan, Zarecky said, including a regional elections bill, a bill on transfer of power to regional bodies, a budget distribution bill and a bill on statutory towns. In all, 13 bills have been prepared, he said.

The Civil Administration Office rejects the Interior Ministry proposal on the grounds that regional bodies, with

their sensitivity to particular interests, might cause the state administration to operate differently in different regions. Responsibility for a single legislation across the state lies with the central body, Zarecky said, admitting however that the separation of state administration from regional self-government might be waived in time.

The current transformation process makes it impossible to adopt the so-called public administration, he said, adding that no date has been set for the disbanding of the district councils. He also rejected reports that they might be disbanded as of the election date.

Union Crisis Committee Prepares for Government Talks

AU2810144093 Prague CTK in English 1621 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Prague, Oct 25 (CTK)—The Bohemian and Moravian Chamber of Trade Unions (CMKOS) Crisis Committee, at its first meeting here today, discussed preparations for talks between union representatives and the government scheduled for Friday, 29 October.

The Crisis Committee was set up on Friday, 22 October, in response to the attitude of employers towards collective bargaining and the crisis of confidence which has been shown in the Tripartite (consisting of representatives from the government, the unions and employers) during talks on social partnership.

On Friday [22 October], unions are expecting to get an unambiguous answer to a letter sent by CMKOS Chairman Vladimir Petrus to Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus on 25 September, pointing out the government's non-fulfillment of several points of the general agreement. The letter was sent from a consultative meeting of 41 trade unions and 13 regional chambers associated in the CMKOS, CMKOS spokesman Vaclav Jurina told journalists today.

The letter concluded union demands concerning the fulfillment of the General Agreement for 1993 and the preparation of the General Agreement for 1994. The General Agreement is concluded every year by the Tripartite with the aim of maintaining social peace during the period of transition from the central-command economy to a market one.

The letter protested against the government's intention to ban union activity in the civil services.

Though journalists were not informed in detail of the crisis committee's meeting today, Petrus promised that unionists would acquaint the media with their claims towards the government before Friday's meeting.

Meciar Receives CSCE High Commissioner

AU2810132693 Prague CTK in English 1434 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Bratislava, Oct 22 (CTK)— Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar met today with Max van der Stoel, high commissioner of the Council of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) [title as received] for ethnic minorities, to discuss ethnic minority questions and the activities of a team which is monitoring the ethnic minority situation in Slovakia.

The meeting's agenda included Slovakia's planned administrative rearrangement and new regions to be established. Education problems and the law on names and surnames were also discussed, as well as the role of the CSCE Committee for Ethnic Minorities.

Van der Stoel said that during his last visit to Slovakia, Meciar had proposed him to send teams to both Slovakia and Hungary to monitor the status of Slovakia's Hungarian ethnic minority and that of Hungary's Slovak one. The first CSCE mission in the two countries took place in mid-September, another one is planned for February, 1994. It is to focus on questions linked to Slovakia's new administrative setup and education problems, mainly possibilities for ethnic Hungarians to study in Slovakia, van der Stoel said.

He stressed that the results of the CSCE team's work were confidential and would not be disclosed.

Van der Stoel said he believed that given the results of the monitoring mission so far, all problems linked to the ethnic minority question could be solved if a dialogue is led. Asked about his view of the status of Slovakia's Hungarian minority, he said that he never comments on the situation and therefore he has to give only general information.

Kovac Receives Commissioner

AU2810132893 Bratislava SLOVENSKY DENNIK in Slovak 23 Oct 93 p 1

[TA SR report: "More Patience, Less Tension"]

[Text] Bratislava—President Michal Kovac received Max van der Stoel, CSCE high commissioner for ethnic minorities, in Bratislava yesterday. Following their talks, Kovac told journalists that he had a very good feeling because he had had an opportunity to explain to the high commissioner in greater detail the mission of the roundtables that he organizes with representatives of ethnic minorities.

He believes that van der Stoel left the meeting with a certain conviction that Slovak institutions, bodies, government, and the president are ready to address the problems regarding ethnic minorities openly and sincerely.

In particular, the president of the Slovak Republic drew attention to the fact that the resolution of some demands by ethnic minorities in the National Council of the Slovak Republic required a good atmosphere throughout society and in parliament, where the consent of the majority of deputies is required. He complained somewhat [to the CSCE high commissioner], the president said, that some representatives of the Hungarian ethnic minority, in particular, do not sufficiently consider this and do not prepare the proper ground for a peaceful solution to problems. He criticized, above all, their lack of patience, but also the fact that they complain too much about [the government's] ethnic policy and too often contact and consult representatives of the Hungarian Government.

The president assured van der Stoel that we trust the high commissioner for ethnic minorities, the relevant Council of Europe bodies, and other European institutions that are able to control the policies of all governments toward minorities. In the opinion of the Slovak president, there is no need to generate too great a tension with regard to these questions or to present Slovakia and its policy in a negative light.

Weiss Discusses Reaction to Coalition

AU2710172493 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 22 Oct 93 p 12

[Interview with Peter Weiss, chairman of the Party of the Democratic Left, by Jan Skoda; place and date not given: "The Coalition Will Hardly Improve Slovakia's Image"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Skoda] Following the birth of the independent Slovakia, the French press published negative assessments of the Slovak prime minister and the ruling movement, to which it ascribed the attribute "nationalist." Are you not concerned that, following the formation of a coalition between the Movement For a Democratic Slovakia and the Slovak National Party, such reactions will be even more negative in France?

[Weiss] I adhered to the principle that the best place for criticizing the Slovak Government is the Slovak Parliament. I did not deal with these issues during my talks with French officials. I did not do anything that could lead to doubt being cast on our government. However, we held detailed discussions on the situation in Central Europe and the means for instilling long-term stability in the region. In France, they are very much alive to the consequences of the Yugoslav drama, especially to the fact that the nationalist demands tabled by the various sides have not been curbed. Therefore, they take a dim view of parties organized on a nationalist basis, and it makes no difference to them whether these parties try to represent the majority nation or the interests of the minority. I deduce from this that the coalition will hardly improve the image of the Slovak Republic abroad.

[Skoda] A great deal has been said about the plan put forward by French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, a plan that has also been adopted by the European Community. Its experts should visit Slovakia at the beginning

of November. In what way can this security plan resolve the tension between Slovakia and Hungary, tension associated with the Hungarian minority in our country?

[Weiss] I emphasized everywhere that any plans motivated toward changing the borders are unacceptable to us, especially in view of our historical experience. They explained to me that border changes are not the aim of this pact; it is aimed at creating stability in Central Europe. Its endeavor is, on the contrary, to consolidate borders. This involves creating a forum for discussion, either for bilateral talks or for talks involving moderators that should lead to the elimination of possible flash points of tension and disputes, especially surrounding the status of minorities. The European "Twelve" is thinking of resolving this way not only the status of the Hungarian minority in Central Europe, but also—for example—the status of the Russian minority in the Baltic countries. I think it is unnecessary to enter into these talks with the EC with any concerns, because preventative diplomacy should not be turned down. However, it is necessary to point out all the stumbling blocks that could arise from an oversimplified and unilateral explanation of the status of the Hungarian minority in Central Europe. We should not always just adopt a defensive stance. We should proceed more confidently on the basis of our arguments. Simply, we should behave in a more European manner. [passage omitted]

SDSS Leader Views HZDS-SNS Coalition

AU2810134793 Prague CTK in English 1404 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Bratislava, Oct 25 (CTK)— It is not the coalition between the ruling Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) and the Slovak National Party (SNS), who will lead the society out of misery, Jaroslav Volf, deputy chairman of the Social Democratic Party in Slovakia (SDSS) said at a press conference today.

Volf expressed his fears if this proclaimed barrier to the leftist offensive would not be more an obstacle on the road towards stability and Slovakia's integration links to West Europe. Both the HZDS and the SNS are internally unstable and they lack corresponding partners in the West, Volf stated.

The SDSS considers early elections to be one of the few feasible solutions to the problem of the country's stability.

SDSS Deputy Chairman Lubor Bystricky said that the elections are conditional on the birth of political parties and movements with clear profiles. He said that early summer 1994 was a realistic term for the elections, which would be the result of the country's economic and political situation at the turn of the year, not of collecting signatures to push through a referendum on the issue.

Despite the envisaged cooperation between the former Slovak ambassador to Austria, Rudolf Filkus, with the Alliance of Slovak Democrats (ADS), the SDSS considers Filkus a social democrat.

Filkus, the former HZDS deputy chairman, resigned on September 13, 1993 from his post of the ambassador and one week later was expelled from the HZDS after he had been criticized by HZDS leader and Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar for his acting unloyally to the Slovak Government.

Volf said that the SDSS viewed the liberal stream followed by the ADS as a partner one. However, he said that it was hardly imaginable that a Social Democratic orientation be realized not by a Social Democratic party, but by a party leaning to liberalism.

The SDSS sees October 28, the anniversary of Czechoslovakia's foundation, to be a significant day. Its recent exclusion by the parliament from Slovak Republic's significant days is a hasty decision, Volf said. The birth of Czechoslovakia on October 28, 1918 meant a barrier to the Magyarization of Slovakia, he added.

Prime Minister's Condition Improving

LD2910092693 Budapest MTI in English 0832 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Bonn, October 29 (MTI)—Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall's condition is satisfactory under the circumstances, his mood is good and it can be hoped he will return to Hungary within two weeks, MP Sandor Kulin of the Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF) said.

Indication of the improvement is that following the autological parent cell transplant carried out on October 14, the PM's leukocyte count is now up to 1700, although the leukocyto-genesis started from zero. The optimal count is 5000-6000.

Kulin and MP Imre Mecs of the largest opposition party, the Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD) telephoned the PM, who is in the Cologne University Clinic, on Thursday evening from Bonn. The MPs are visiting Germany on the invitation of the Bundestag.

Kulin, who is a physician, told MTI's correspondent that the prime minister's condition began to improve from a very grave situation. Mecs said that apart from his personal good wishes, he ensured Antall that the leading body of the AFD also wished him a speedy recovery and awaited his return to office.

The delegation of Hungarian Parliament's Hungarian-German friendship group will conclude its visit to Germany in Munich on Saturday. The MPs have so far visited Dresden, Berlin, Brandenburg province, and Bonn, and met with parliamentary officials and members of the Bundestag's German-Hungarian friendship group.

Ministry To Apply for U.S. Military Equipment

AU2810155493 Paris AFP in English 1536 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Budapest, Oct 28 (AFP)—Hungary will apply for a share of military equipment left in Europe after a partial withdrawal of U.S. forces by 1995, a spokesman for the Defence Ministry told newspapers here Thursday.

Lajos Erdelyi said Hungary was most in need of airport equipment, field appliances, medical supplies and hospital equipment, in the form of aid if possible.

"Next year's defence budget would hardly be enough for maintenance. We will be unable to finance purchases," Erdelyi told the KURIR daily newspaper.

The U.S. Army is to offer part of its military equipment in Europe to NATO member states and to several eastern European countries when the bulk of its forces withdraw, the biggest-circulation NEPSZABADSAG daily said.

The list does not include weapons, but makes reference to field equipment, including tents and tools, the paper said quoting high-ranking military sources in Bonn.

Quoting the same sources, NEPSZABADSAG said the United States would select applicants on a first-come-first-served basis, but political considerations would also play a role.

Whether applicants would have to pay for the equipment or get it free would also be a political decision, it said.

Meanwhile, 380 railway carriages of Soviet-made arms parts were arriving here from the former stocks of the East German Army as a gift from Germany, Erdelyi said.

The spare parts, which contained no weapons, did not fall under a European agreement on cutting traditional weapons, Erdelyi said.

Defense Minister Criticized for Statements

AU2810200693 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 26 Oct 93 p 7

[Editorial by Otto Neumann: "The Minister Wrote a Letter"]

[Text] A soldier's duty is difficult—we know this from the folk song. It is unfair that none of the songs mention how difficult the duties of the minister dealing with the soldiers' affairs are, especially if he came to lead the Defense Ministry as a civilian, and while he has to face the Army's burning problems on a daily basis, the domestic and foreign press also keeps a watchful eye on his statements as a politician!

As a matter of fact, since Lajos Fur announced the fall of Warsaw [after the recent Polish elections], I have not seen any sentences in the minister's public statements that indicated distortions in his political perception. On the contrary! His article published in the government-supporting newspaper in honor of 23 October [1956] national day is downright exemplary. There is only a faint reference to the tragedy of Trianon and the balanced essay does not at all use the opportunity to cry for revenge for what happened in 1956 in conjunction with current issues today. On the contrary, the minister emphasizes the need for peace with our environment and spiritual world.

One can also not object that, in the substance of his letter to the Eger meeting of the Transylvania Federation, Fur speaks up for the recognition of Hungarians living beyond the border as a factor that is part of the state. Only neither the address nor the timing seemed auspicious. And also, Hungary's defense minister signed this letter.

Indirectly, Budapest government circles have thus far distanced themselves from the civil organizations that produce daring predictions on the future of areas that came under the jurisdiction of other states. The extremists of neighboring countries, with the help of some falsifications, have created official Hungarian statements from these imaginative manifestations. For example, Romanian-Hungarian interstate relations that

are developing with great difficulties would certainly have calcified if the other side had deemed the Transylvanian World Federation's spring statement to be an official view, in which it stated that paragraphs guaranteeing the borders must under no circumstances be part of the basic agreement.

Around the middle of this month, another Transylvania Federation—a few of these exist in our country—came up with some breathtaking ideas. The participants in the meeting established that it is best if Hungarians living in neighboring countries are not called a national minority—this in itself leads to discriminations. They are equal parts of the nation and factors that also constitute the state—this is how the judgment goes which ignores only one fact, namely that the European and world forums are struggling to formulate the rights of national minorities rather than "equal parts of the nation." It is also unclear why the national minority cannot also be a factor that is part of the state when in Hungary, Law No. 77 of 1993 explicitly refers to national minorities as parts of the state. The well-intentioned reformers probably think they are in next century's Europe, which might not be a problem, except that with the defense minister's encouraging message, connections were made between the uncontrollable social organizations and the Hungarian government which up to now have only existed in Romanian fairy tales.

All this happened a few days after President Iliescu's statements created quite a stir. According to the Romanian president, "certain people" would use the national minorities living on the territory of the nation state as a fifth column for internal subversion to tear the state asunder. Budapest's justifiable indignation was immediately followed by explanations: Iliescu meant various revisionist and irredentist groups, rather than Hungarian government circles under "certain people."

It is at this point that Minister Lajos Fur wrote his letter, practically laying the arguments at the feet of the Romanian ultranationalists that the Hungarian government and the "subversive organizations" are nevertheless birds of a feather.

Naturally, many people might become annoyed at the fact that while the Romanian president can come out with his anti-Hungarian views soon after [Hungarian Foreign Minister] Geza Jeszenszky's visit there, we always expect Lajos Fur to show the self-restraint of an adherent of political realism. However, we know that Iliescu's statements are balancing acts between the constitutional statehood based on European norms and the extreme national forces that are still supporting the president, like some showpieces that would even embarrass a circus magician, therefore, they are perfectly understandable. His references to the fifth column were not at all meant for Budapest, rather, they were to put the defenders of the state, who might have suspected too much of a rapprochement arising between the two governments after the Hungarian foreign minister's talks in Bucharest, at ease. As opposed to this, the only thing I could not establish about Lajos Fur's letter addressed to the Transylvanian Federation was who had suggested it, for whom it was really meant, and in whose actual interest it had been written.

We can also ponder the fact that not a single word can be whispered in Hungary in the interest of the national minorities over the border without it causing indignation on the other side of the border. If we were ever watchful of this anger-generating mechanism, the country might again assume the silence prevalent in the party-state as regards the issues of Hungarians living in neighboring countries. This is true but the counter-reaction does not always remain at the level of shadow-boxing. Some commentaries, for example, blame Lajos Fur for the victory of Kolozsvar's [Cluj] current mayor at the 1992 local elections. At that time, the defense minister expounded on the security of Hungary and said that Hungarians living in neighboring countries must be handled together. Adrian Nastase, then Romanian foreign minister, and easily disregarding the rules of campaign silence, accused Fur of violating Romanian state sovereignty. As a result of the anti-Hungarian hysteria sparked off at the most suitable time, in the second round of the elections, Gheorghe Funar, who had been thought to have less chance, overtook the other mayoral candidate who enjoyed the support of the Democratic Federation of Hungarians in Romania [RMDSZ—UDMR in Hungarian]. Naturally, it is impossible to prove a logical link between Fur's speech and Mayor Funar—but it cannot be satisfactorily denied, either.

What is the lesson in all this? Perhaps that a defense minister should only correspond or speak on such matters when wise silence is definitely no longer bearable for him. However, should he take up national minority protection actions, he could for example give a lecture to the Romanian chiefs of staff on how the efforts toward autonomy of the Hungarians living there do not endanger Romania's security. Convincing just one general would be a great feat, more fun than correspondence, and a noble piece of man's work!

Walesa Cited on Government, Clinton, NATO

LD2810225093 Warsaw Third Program Radio Network in Polish 2000 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Report by unidentified correspondent on Polish President Lech Walesa's remarks at news conference in Helsinki; portions enclosed within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] President Lech Walesa is visiting Finland. Together with Finnish President Mauno Koivisto, he spoke first and foremost about security in Europe and the situation which has arisen following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Asked at a news conference for his assessment of the situation in Poland after the elections, Lech Walesa said:

[Walesa] "We are learning democracy and we are trying various systems. But whatever one says, the present ministers are better prepared to govern. The Solidarity side did not have the right conditions to learn to govern. So if this government lasts four years then that would mean four years of learning for the others. And after four years of study they will be able to prove themselves again.

"As president I will be looking at quality—without the involvement of feelings [sympatia]—although I must say that in this government I do have a few people I have warm feelings for."

[Correspondent] The Polish leader confirmed the intention of taking Poland into NATO and gave his opinion about Russia joining the Pact.

[Walesa] "I don't believe that NATO and Russia are against Poland and that [Russia] is organizing itself—I ask myself: Against whom?"

Lech Walesa assessed American aid for our country.

[Walesa] "Clinton is a great President of the great States and has great American and world problems. Poland is an average country which was valiant in the past—very necessary when things are difficult and times are hard and less noticeable when there are divisions. That is why we have learned not to be sentimental, we have learned to rely on ourselves.

"In the United States there is a huge Polish community and very many voters. We are relying on them. We are relying on our friends. But I must be a realist."

Pawlak Discusses Assistance With World Bank

LD2810192393 Warsaw PAP in English 1653 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 28—The World Bank thinks it is necessary to combine reforms in Poland which ensure economic growth with social programmes, the head of the bank's mission in Poland Ian Hume told reporters after a meeting Thursday [28 October] with Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak.

Pawlak said on his part that "economics is not just about finances and budget, but about social issues and processes as well."

Hume declared that new possibilities of World Bank loans for Poland to go towards social programmes would be discussed with the Polish Government in the coming weeks.

The implementation of earlier agreed loan programmes for Poland was also reviewed during Thursday's meeting. "We have discussed possible ways of improving Poland's use of the credit facilities offered by the bank," Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak said after the meeting. He added that such fields as customs administration and tax collection were included in the discussion.

The World Bank financing has been used to implement two social services programmes in Poland, one in the field of fighting unemployment and job creation (100 m dollars), the other in reforming the health sector (118.5 m dollars).

The bank is Poland's biggest lender with total commitments reaching 3.6 bn dollars and actual credits in 1993 reaching 1,096 m dollars.

This year's credits fall into four programmes. 450 m was drawn to restructure banks and state enterprises suffering from debt problems, 350 m was earmarked for technical assistance to and development of infrastructure in the farming sector, 146 m has been used by forestry, and 150 m was channelled to road building.

Miller on Tasks of Labor Ministry

LD2810225293 Warsaw PAP in English 2144 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 28—Labour Minister Leszek Miller said Thursday [28 October] that the main task of his ministry would be to persuade the goverment that social spendings are not only "a trying" burden on the budget but an investment assuring stable development.

Miller said he was familiarizing himself with the operation of the Labour Ministry and would try to decide what should be continued and what requires changes. Miller praised the unemployment fighting programme prepared by his predecessor. According to him, the programme is professional but some details should be corrected.

The labour minister stressed that the ministry would focus its attention on the reform of social insurances and would try to find a formula simplifying the pension system which should be stable and clear.

Miller stated he would like to increase the lowest pensions, in accordance with the coalition agreements. Heads of the labour and finance ministries are to discuss the issue on Friday.

He termed as urgent the preparation of draft amendments to the law on the indexation of pensions and

recognized as essential contacts with trade unions. He also promised to meet commitments of the previous government related to wage rises in the public sector scheduled for December.

New Labor Minister Views Policy, Coalition

WS2610143093 Warsaw Radio Zet in Polish 0715 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Interview with Leszek Miller, vice chairman of Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland and newly appointed labor minister, by Krzysztof Skowronski at the Radio Zet studio in Warsaw on the "Guest of Radio Zet" program—live]

[Text] [Skowronski] Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. Radio Zet's guest today is Mr. Leszek Miller, vice chairman of the Social Democracy of the Polish Republic [component of the Democratic Left Alliance—SLD], and a candidate to be our next labor minister, or practically speaking, he is already the minister.

[Miller] I am still a candidate.

[Skowronski] All right. How is it possible that the prime minister presented the government's composition to President Walesa yesterday, which has not been agreed upon with the Democratic Left Alliance?

[Miller] Well, it was not agreed upon completely, and you know, we are such a recently married couple—I mean of course SLD and the Polish Peasant Party [PSL]—the wedding night was both spectacular and effective, but there are some tensions in the course of routine day-to-day business, and there is also some willingness to not take into account the other side's point of view completely. But I hope that after yesterday's experience, we made another step toward a strengthening of the marriage, and I am sure the marriage will see a tranquil and peaceful old age.

[Skowronski] But is the marriage now out of common sense, or out of love?

[Miller] Well, I think there is both love and common sense. The love part is with regard to the program, whereas the common sense part relates to tactics and strategy. So everything that makes any marriage strong, is also present in this marriage of ours.

[Skowronski] What was Prime Minister Pawlak counting on yesterday while presenting President Walesa with a list of ministerial candidates which had not been completely agreed upon?

[Miller] I think that there must have been some misunderstanding. I do not think it is a question of bad faith on the part of anyone. The misunderstanding is due to the fact that we, for instance, had been missing the kind of document which we adopted last night—I mean the kind of agreement which establishes with great precision and detail some priorities which must be observed in all personnel decisions. It is possible that had the document been adopted earlier, it would have been a different case yesterday.

[Skowronski] What does the current SLD-PSL agreement entail? What does it concern?

[Miller] It concerns precisely the manner in which personnel decisions should be made, not only at the level of ministries or ministers, but also at some lower levels like voivods. The document regulates with great precision the procedure for arriving at decisions, and I suppose—I mean I am sure—that it will be extremely useful in subsequent negotiations on personnel issues.

[Skowronski] What kinds of decisions do you mean?

[Miller] I mean decisions regarding filling up the individual ministries below the level of minister, as well as decisions on filling posts in the voivods.

[Skowronski] Does SLD fear anything in this marriage with PSL?

[Miller] No, I cannot see any such dangers or fears. Well, the marriage has a great many relatives, both with regard to our colleagues from PSL and to ourselves. And you know, often times these relatives disturb the marriage's otherwise harmonious life a little bit.

[Skowronski] Who are PSL's relatives? How does one tell them from other relatives, those of the SLD?

[Miller] No, you cannot tell them from our relatives at all because the blood ties are the same....

[Skowronski, interrupting] So our relatives' relatives are....

[Miller, laughing] They are our relatives, that is correct.

[Skowronski] Will the marriage undergo a religious ceremony as well—while we are on this matrimonial note?

[Miller] No, all the ceremonies have been completed and we are not planning any more.

[Skowronski] There will not be any more. Will the president approve of the government's composition?

[Miller] Well, that question should naturally be addressed to the president himself, but yesterday's message from the Belvedere was that the president will indeed approve, and that is why there was an announcement that all ministerial candidates are to report at noon today at the Belvedere, where the new government is to be sworn in. So it does not look like anything unexpected is going to happen in the meantime, although you know, in situations such as this, I always take pleasure in reminding people what Aleksander Kwasniewski has often said: It is not enough to cross the finish line, it is not enough to win the race, you must also wait for the results of the drug test to come in, and only then can your joy be complete.

[Skowronski] By drug test results you mean what? Voting in the Sejm? I think that issue is a foregone conclusion.

[Miller] No, in this particular case, by drug test results I mean the final decision by the president. True, one could say that everything has already been settled, communiques were announced, but let us wait another few hours—it is really not that long.

[Skowronski] Why did the negotiations between PSL and SLD take so much time?

[Miller] We were looking for the right people to implement the coalition agreement. We were looking for the best, most competent people, people who would have the most social as well as political support. I would say we were facing a surplus of candidates rather than a shortage. And you know, when you have a surplus, then you must face some additional problems. So the lengthy talks and even the impatience which could be seen—they were due to the fact that there were very many people who were willing to take up the posts, and we simply had to choose from among many candidates.

[Skowronski] The surplus of candidates did not apply to the Ministry of Justice. Mr. Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz found out at the last minute that he will be the new justice minister. Is this the way it should have happened?

[Miller] Well, there had been some other candidates for the post before that, and Mr. Cimoszewicz was designated after being chosen from among other candidates, so it was not the case that Mr. Cimoszewicz was the only candidate for the post.

[Skowronski] Today, the government will be officially sworn in at the Belvedere. Will you go to the ministry's headquarters immediately after that?

[Miller] You know, I have not thought about that yet, but I think the answer has to be no, because I suppose that the ceremony of introducing the new ministers will begin tomorrow morning, with the participation of either the prime minister or deputy prime ministers, as well as of the outgoing ministers, and I think that before that happens, the new ministers should not be particularly visible in their ministries. The outgoing ministers should be allowed the opportunity of sufficient preparation, of settling remaining business, and so the ceremony should take place tomorrow.

[Skowronski] Have you met with Jacek Kuron, the outgoing labor minister, yet?

[Miller] We have met a few times. However, these were unofficial meetings; we talked not only about the ministry, but also about many other things....

[Skowronski, interrupting] About love?

[Miller] We also talked about love. All the more so because there was one thing that I was slightly angry with Mr. Kuron about. Let me tell you an anecdote. About six months ago, I came across Mr. Kuron in the Sejm and I asked him to autograph a copy of his book for me. Mr. Jacek asked me my wife's first name. I told him her name, Aleksandra, or Olenka. And Mr. Kuron wrote a dedication. I brought the book home and said to my wife: Ola, look at this, Mr. Kuron wrote this nice dedication for you. My wife opened the book, gave me a strange look, gave the book back to me, and said: You know, I think you have some other wife, because Mr. Kuron wrote, To Mrs. Krystyna, with best wishes. It turned out that I took the wrong book. However, I had to go through all that.

[Skowronski] It was not because Jacek Kuron was malicious?

[Miller] No, he was definitely not.

[Skowronski] What else did you talk about? Most likely not just about your wives.

[Miller] We discussed what should primarily be done in the area of social policy. There are certain deadlines that must be met. For example, 31 December is the day when the law on the rules of establishing old age and disability pensions and on the change in some laws terminates. If the Sejm does not adopt appropriate resolutions by that time, on 1 January the entire pension system will be paralyzed. That same date is the day of termination of the periodic amendments to the law on budget sector salaries. This also calls for expeditious measures. Therefore, we thought about which activities should be dealt with first. The new authorities within the ministry will have to submit legislative proposals to the speaker of the Sejm.

[Skowronski] Some Solidarity activists claim that Leszek Miller in the Labor Ministry is like a grenade about to explode. How will negotiations be held?

[Miller] You know, I have never come across such an opinion....

[Skowronski, interrupting] It is in today's papers.

[Miller] I know it only from newspapers. However, you know, I have my experiences and I am rather reserved toward such opinions. Well, I believe that we should finish this time of various theatrical gestures and poses. I believe that we must try to solve the problems of large social groups and problems of people. I think, for those people, it is probably not very important who the minister is right now, or who is the chairman of the trade union. They do not care about those grimaces and poses. Now, we are faced with this question: Will we deal with resolving social problems, or will we get involved in a game of gestures. I suggest we begin trying to resolve social problems, the most important ones.

[Skowronski] Right after you were designated as the labor minister, you said that the program of combating unemployment, prepared by Minister Boni, is a good program. Are you going to implement that program?

[Miller] Well, generally I believe that we must approach the Suchocka government in a rational manner. That is, whatever can be continued, should be continued, and whatever needs to be changed, should be changed. We should not say in advance that everything is bad simply

because we have inherited something from our predecessors. This is a certain practice to which we should put an end. The program that you have mentioned is well-constructed, even though we certainly do not agree with all the elements that have been prepared in it. For example, the idea of taxing people to raise money for the unemployed. However, the most fundamental fault with the program is the fact that it was not implemented. It was not implemented also because there was not enough time to do that. Therefore, we will quietly look it over, correct it where necessary, and will devote all our efforts to implement the proposals that are in the program which we think are rational.

[Skowronski] You will also inherit "Seven Minutes for the Minister of Labor" from Jacek Kuron. Are we going to see you every Tuesday on television? Are you going to address the nation?

[Miller] Well, I think that Mr. Jacek Kuron simply cannot be replaced, he is unique. Therefore, what Mr. Kuron did very well does not necessarily have to be done so well by his successor. Now, I believe that instead of those seven minutes....[pauses] The ministry's information policy should be a little different. I envision it like this—the television, or Radio Zet for that matter, addresses a certain social problem, we show how it is addressed in Poland, and then we see how it is solved in other countries. Then someone from the ministry, the minister or someone who has been empowered by him, briefly explains how the ministry wants to resolve this particular social problem, what this requires, what this needs, and so on and so forth. So this is what I think this should look like, more or less.

[Skowronski] However, you said, quite modestly, that Mr. Kuron is so unique. Does this mean that Mr. Leszek Miller is not unique?

[Miller] Well, each of us is unique. However, you have got to hand it to Mr. Kuron, he does have this additional color which is rather hard to come by with other politicians.

[Skowronski] In what stage is your lawsuit?

[Miller] There is no lawsuit. This has often been repeated, and you certainly know that the entire case has been going on for two years now. Two consecutive prosecutors suggested that the case be dropped due to lack of evidence. Authorities at the Prosecutor's Office have changed this decision. Therefore, I can say that the entire case was political. Apart from that, the Saturday-Sunday edition of TRYBUNA published pieces of letters between the Warsaw Prosecutor's Office and the General Prosecutor's Office, which definitely show that the case is political.

[Skowronski] How long will the government coalition survive?

[Miller] I hope that it will live long because it has solid backing in the parliament; apart from that, there are considerable programmatic similarities in it. Therefore, it is not some kind of exotic coalition which has been somehow patched together. The coalition is internally linked by its program and it has solid support in the parliament. This gives us reason to believe that the coalition will last long.

[Skowronski] Will it be a happily married couple?

[Miller] I hope that it will be a happy couple, with presentable children.

[Skowronski] What about the president? What is his role in all this?

[Miller] I hope that the president, from the height of his office....

[Skowronski, interrupting] He will be the godfather.

[Miller] He will be understanding and forgiving, and he will watch this couple have children and grandchildren.

[Skowronski] Thank you for the interview.

[Miller] Thank you.

OPZZ Communique on Talks With Miller

LD2810151493 Warsaw PAP in English 1349 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Warsaw, Oct. 28—Labour Minister Leszek Miller met with the leadership of the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions (OPZZ) on Thursday [28 October]. According to a communique issued by the OPZZ press office after the meeting the sides agreed that it is necessary to promptly define the principal social problems that need to be solved urgently as well as to determine the forms of mutual contacts.

OPZZ head Ewa Spychalska presented to the labour minister the union's stand on the current situation of various groups of employees and social expectations connected with the government coalition agreements.

According to OPZZ, priority should be given to the finalization of the government's obligations vis-a-vis the employees of the education, health care and cultural sector, to the introduction of the decisions included in the pact on state enterprise, elimination of the excessive wage tax, changes in the pensions law and continuation of work on the OPZZ-drafted charter of social guarantees.

The OPZZ unionists also attach importance to the active policy of combatting unemployment and protection of the economically weakest social groups.

The OPZZ communique says that the labour minister showed understanding for the union's proposals but stressed that the government's social policy depends on the economic condition of the state and budgetary means.

Minister Miller proposed that OPZZ present suggestions connected with the expected expose of Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak as envisaged under the coalition agreement, the communique says.

OPZZ forms part of the co-ruling Democratic Left Alliance (SLD).

Vacaroiu Stresses Need for University Reform

AU2810173993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1623 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 28/10/1993—Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu attended Thursday, 28 October, the opening in the auditorium of the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies (ASE) of a series of scientific, cultural, and artistic events occasioned by the academy's 80th anniversary.

In his speech, the Romanian premier also referred to the government's concern for the reform of the higher education as a priority of the economic and social reform strategy his cabinet pursues with the aim of forming the specialists the new social system needs. He commended the progress made by the Academy of Economic Studies to this effect and urged for greater efforts in completing the reform of the educational system, so as to make it apt to train highly qualified specialists, including expert economists "so necessary for the progress of the Romanian economy," the premier said.

Iliescu Views Sources of Economic Crisis

AU2810174193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1620 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 28/10/1993—President Ion Iliescu took the floor at an October 28 festive meeting at the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, that celebrated 80 years of existence, to speak about the economic recession. "Social pressures in the period immediately after the revolution, the reduction of working days per week from six to five, the paying back of welfare funds to contributors, and an unjustified increase in the wages of certain social segments have worsened the situation of Romanian economy, have caused major dysfunctions, which have generated in their turn, justified discontent and serious social troubles."

"World economic phenomena—economic recession, the disbanding of the CEMA [Council of Economic Mutual Assistance] and [the loss] of other traditional markets, the embargo against Yugoslavia, and the Gulf War also had a say."

By adding to all this the relatively high tensions in the country, which "hinders us to think the way a householder does and apply a logical transition program," we have a complete picture of the causes the Romanian recession roots in.

The only chance for a strengthening of Romania's economy is its gradual integration into the world economy, which can be achieved only through a coherent program to be drafted by experts in economy. It is obvious that in order to overcome its difficulties, sooner or later the West will have to pay attention to the East, to the immense resources and outlets of these countries, thus illustrating the simple truth that interests, shared interests, prevail in economics.

Defense Minister Views Army Restructuring

AU2810132793 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0956 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 28/10/1993—Lieutenant-General Nicolae Spiroiu, Romania's minister of defence, views all changes in the Romanian Army starting 1990 as stages of the same process of training and modernisation, in view of a better collaboration with other armies of the world, of the developed states with an advanced democracy and particularly with armies of the neighbouring countries.

"Restructuring, which is already undergoing in the Army too, marks a top moment of the reform in Romania's Army, but the process does not end here, for generally the road towards military performance, which brings the guarantee of national security in the context of growing confidence and stability, of collective security in Europe and the world, is extremely difficult," is the opinion of Romania's minister of defence in an interview printed in the last issue of the ARMATA ROMANIEI weekly.

The Romanian Army has chosen its military organisation pattern according to its aim, an integration in European security structures, and the option for a future entering in the NATO, is, according to the Romanian ministry "a blending between the system of political control of a civil society, practiced in Western European democracies, and the system applied by the United States and England."

Mentioning as the reason for that choice the fact that in Romania there were still obvious certain particularities specific to a period of transition, Lieutenant-General Spiroiu said that that was the explanation for the fact that the Ministry of Defence was still ruled by a career military, as decided by parliament.

The minister of defence also stressed that restructuring of Romania's Army had in view first of all a newly-oriented organisation of the Ministry of National Defence, starting with the minister's cabinet. The main staff, which is to become the general staff, will take the responsibilities of the minister. Other responsibilities of the minister will pass over to the Army staffs on categories of Armed Forces together with part of the responsibilities held by the General Staff, even if the General Staff takes the operative leadership which will integrate the concept of all categories of Armed Forces. But the military political decision stays with the Ministry of National Defence. The General Staff will hold responsibilities on the concept of integration, on the operative leadership of the Army staffs on categories of Armed Forces.

Proper structures would be established at the level of the Ministry of Defence that would enable an integration of the civil component, a proper openness towards civil society, the exercise of its control over the Army, Lieutenant-General Spiroiu said.

Official Predicts Profit From MFN Status

AU2710153393 Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER in Romanian 23 Oct 93 p 8

[MEDIAFAX item: "Romania Will Make a $60-75 million Profit Due to the Most-Favored-Nation Status"]

[Text] "Romania's estimated profits from the resumption of the most-favored-nation [MFN] status and the reduction in customs duties will amount to $60-75 million," said Ion Pargaru, director general of the America Department within the Ministry of Trade. Through the cut in customs duties from 70 percent to 12 percent, some Romanian products—mainly electronic ones—will have access to U.S. markets, Mr. Pargaru also said. So far, only a small number of Romanian products have been sold on those markets. After the first year, Romania's trade with the United States will amount to $600 million and after three years we will reach the maximum amount, which we were achieving when MFN status was removed.

Nuclear Equipment Plant Threatened by Bankruptcy

AU2810212293 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1904 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 28/10/1993—The losses incurred by the Bucharest Heavy Duty Machinery Factory (IMGB) this week amount to over 3 billion lei as a consequence of gas cuts by gas supplier Romgaz, IMGB union leaders told the press conference called Thursday, 28 October.

Although the factory has yet to cash 3.8 billion lei from its clients, while its debt stands at only 2 billion lei, IMGB is listed among the 30 state-owned bankrupt companies, but this is due to the economic and financial blocking affecting the entire Romanian economy. The union leaders ascribed this to the "fact that the government institutions fail to keep their promises and are trying to bring companies to bankruptcy just to sell them easier, but this will leave so many people without jobs."

Of its 7,000 workers in 1990 IMGB counts today only 4,700, more than a half of them being planned for redundancy by the end of November this year. To crown it all, today, 28 October, the workers could not receive their pay because there is no more money in the bank. All this sparkled a spontaneous rally before the administrative building. Those who spoke at the rally blame the government for the difficult situation IMGB is struggling with. As they pointed out, IMGB is the only factory in the south-east of Europe manufacturing equipments for nuclear power plants at competitive standards, and which, with its high-performance machinery of singular design cannot be readjusted to a different type of production. To say nothing that the price of the IMGB products is half the price of imported ones. "Although the president of Romania favors the continuation of the program of the Romanian nuclear industry, our opinion is that Mr. Iliescu is being side-lined and we fear that he himself is in no better position to defend the national nuclear energy program from those who seek to bury it."

The trade union sees the intention of the governmental institutions of destroying this factory as "an attempt against the national security of Romania" and expressed its concern about the fate of another 2,000 employees that are to be fired at the end of November, although the factory has contracts with Korea, China, Germany, and with the Cernavoda [Romania] nuclear plant.

These days members of the IMGB management are negotiating with IMF representatives a solution to end the crisis.

Foreign Media Bulletin: Balkan Crisis 29 October

WA2910164393

The following is an overview of current FBIS reporting on events in the Balkans. It supplements other FBIS reporting and consists primarily of selected summaries of longer reports. For reference purposes, serial numbers of the longer reports are provided.

SUMMARY

Bosnian Serbs, Muslims agree to set up telephone hotline ... Croatia accuses Muslims of "crimes against civilians" ... Continued fighting reported among Muslims in western Bosnia.

POLITICAL

SERBS, MUSLIMS TO SET UP HOTLINE (TANJUG): Bosnian Serbs, Muslims agreed to set up telephone "hotline" between their respective headquarters in Sarajevo and Pale "as a way of overcoming the current tension" between the two sides. (LD2810233093)

HUMANITARIAN

MUSLIMS ACCUSED OF RIGHTS VIOLATIONS (TANJUG): Croatian Ambassador to the UN Nobilo accuses Bosnian Muslims of "crimes against civilians" near Jablanica, alleges Muslim "politicians and military commanders knew about and approved plans" for "ethnic cleansing" of Croatian population. (LD2810232593)

MILITARY

CONTINUED CLASHES AMONG MUSLIMS: Zagreb Radio reports "both sides have suffered casualties" in "fresh bloody clashes" among Muslims in western Bosnian, accuses Bosnian Army of initiating fighting with "combined artillery and infantry attack." (LD2810172593)

Serbs, Muslims Agree To Set Up Telephone Hotline

LD2810233093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2132 GMT 28 Oct 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Lukavica, October 28 (TANJUG)—Representatives of Serbs and Muslims in the war-ravaged former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina on Thursday agreed to set up a hot line between Sarajevo and Pale, where the leaderships of the two confronted sides have their headquarters.

Vice-President of the Bosnian Serb Republic Nikola Koljevic told journalists that the Serbs had been ready already on Thursday to put the idea into practice but that some technical questions prevented its realisation.

After a meeting with Muslim Deputy Prime Minister Hasan Muratoric at Sarajevo Airport, Koljevic said that it would be realistic to expect the Sarajevo-Pale telephone line to be set up next week.

Koljevic told journalists that the talks dealt mainly with 'civilian questions' and that the two sides had reached agreement on an exchange of school and work certificates and signed an agreement on a purchase of coal for Sarajevo in Gacko, a Serb-controlled town in eastern Herzegovina.

Koljevic said that dealing with vital questions for the population of both sides was a way for overcoming the current tension between the two sides.

Croatian Official Rejects Blame for Massacre

LD2910050393 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2200 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Vladislav Pogarcic, head of the office for protection of human rights of the Croatian republic of Herceg-Bosna and foreign policy adviser to the president of the Croatian republic of Herceg-Bosna, has demanded from General Francis Briquemont, UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] commander for Bosnia-Herzegovina, that the inquiry into the crimes perpetrated by Muslim forces against the Croatian civilian population of the village of Rastovci be conducted in the same way as the inquiry into the Stupni Do case.

Pogarcic has lodged a protest note with General Vere Hayes, commander of the British forces, because British UN officers have accused in public the HVO [Croatian Defense Council] Bobovac brigade and its commander Kresimir Bozic of perpetrating the massacre in Stupni Do. To accuse the HVO Bobovac brigade of perpetrating a massacre before an official inquiry has been completed amounts to slander and gross irresponsibility, the letter stresses, and points out the fundamental principle of democratic societies: that everyone is innocent until proven guilty.

Croatia Accuses Muslims of Crimes Against Civilians

LD2810232593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1935 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] New York, Oct 28 (TANJUG)—The Croatian ambassador to the United Nations, Mario Nobilo, on Thursday [28 October] accused Bosnian Moslems of crimes against Croat civilians in Doljani, near Jablanica, and Konjic, both in the southern part of the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The letter sent to the U.N. Security Council, whose text has been published at the U.N. headquarters, contains eye-witness testimonies about Moslem crimes against Croat civilians in Doljani and Konjic.

Nobilo said in the letter that documents existed proving, among other things, that ranking Moslem politicians and military commanders knew about and approved plans for "ethnic cleansing" of the Croat population.

The U.S. press has in the meantime reported about the Croat crimes against Moslem civilians in Stupni Do, a village in central Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) this week opened an investigation into what had taken place at Stupni Do when its was attacked by Croat forces last Saturday. The bodies of 17 massacred villagers have been discovered so far.

Moslem and Croat forces have been engaged in fierce mutual clashes in central and southern Bosnia-Herzegovina since early this year. They have been accusing each other of massacres of civilians.

Casualties on Both Sides in Muslim Clashes

LD2810172593 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Report by Croatian TV correspondent Darko Dovranic from Velika Kladusa]

[Text] Fresh bloody clashes have taken place in the autonomous province of western Bosnia. Members of Ramiz Drekovic's 5th Corps [of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army] launched a combined artillery and infantry attack on all defense lines of the army of the autonomous region. Fire from multiple rocket launchers, 120-mm howitzers, and heavy machine-guns is being opened on Skokovi, Todorovo, and Johovica. Infantry forces backed by a tank and mortar-launchers are trying to carry out a breakthrough, but so far all their attempts have been unsuccessful. Both sides have suffered casualties which shows the ferocity of the clashes.

There have been no reports about possible attacks on Croatian Defense Council [HVO] positions around Bihac following the expiry of Drekovic's ultimatum for the replacement of all HVO commanders.

Army Corps Appeals to Kladusa Citizens for Unity

AU2810202593 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Considering the newly created situation in the zone of responsibility of the 5th Corps, the fighters and officers of the 5th Corps of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina appeal to all citizens of the Velika Kladusa commune, to all fighters and officers from Velika Kladusa, and to all reasonable people to jointly try to stop the bloodshed and not to allow a single fighter, regardless of the unit he comes from, lose his life. This was stated in a communique issued by the 5th Corps of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

We know that all fighters and officers, all citizens of this region want this. We do not see an enemy in the citizens of Velika Kladusa, nor in the misled people or fighters and officers. We do not see any greater value in relation to what we used to have, and that is this region being an integral part of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Condemn all those who see an enemy in us. Do not allow the negative propaganda of Velkaton [local radio station in Velika Kladusa] to mislead you, because we do not want a war among the Bosniak peoples. We are militarily trained and organized, and carrying out military tasks on the territory of the Velika Kladusa commune would not be a problem. However, our aim is not to cause bloodshed among the brothers.

We are aware, the communique of the 5th Army Corps states, that there are educated people and people of authority in the Bihac region. They are obliged to speak up regardless of where they are. They are obliged to make their contribution to the settlement of the situation in a peaceful way. The command, fighters, and officers of the 5th Corps have been, and still are, aware of the meaning of togetherness and unity, because we have been advocating this from the very beginning of the war in this region.

The citizens of Velika Kladusa must know that we have been demanding a general cease-fire, the release of all prisoners, the withdrawal of all armed formations to their zones of responsibility, and the establishment of a normal flow of goods, capital, and information. Solving problems at the table is less painful than solving them with a gun. We have been in favor of talks, while the other side has been, and is still, rejecting them.

The Serbian aggressor forces, which are deceiving themselves with erroneous assessments, are, in addition to violating the cease-fire, carrying out offensives on the Bihac section of the front. At the same time, they are using our clashes to realize their own aims, which they will not succeed in accomplishing.

This was stated in a communique issued by the 5th Corps of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Growing Demands From Tuzla 'Autonomists' Reported

AU2810211693 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Report by Darko Milosevic]

[Text] Judging by the latest events in Tuzla, this region will not be spared increasingly more frequent demands by autonomists on the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina either.

According to local radio reports, a direct clash between the forces loyal to the communal authorities, led by reformist Selim Beslagic, and those who advocate implementation of the radical, fundamentalist policy of Alija Izetbegovic, took place yesterday.

According to the same source, one member of the Tuzla Ministry of Internal Affairs died in these clashes; several people were injured.

We have learned from reliable sources that the Supreme Command of the Muslim army is preparing to send 2,000 mojahedins to Tuzla.

[The video report shows a leaflet that reads as follows:

The Islamic fundamentalists have again chosen war. We must not allow further bloodshed and pointless sacrifices of young men in their best years. *Do not forget that Izetbegovic, Ganic, Silajdzic, and others from the leadership have hidden their families away, while forcing our children to die.*

Let us come to our senses, it is high time we do something serious. The Movement for Tuzla's Autonomy is offering a sensible solution for everybody.

Without the good and friendly relations of the Serbian, Croatian, and Muslim peoples there can be no future on these territories. Bearing in mind the location of our region, the autonomy of Tuzla within Yugoslavia would mean peace for us as well as revival of the economy and of traffic—normalization of life.

Let us close our ranks, patriots of Tuzla! Let us support the movement for Tuzla's autonomy as there is no alternative. The perpetuation of the war will inflict great losses and destruction that we do not need. Let us accept the hand of reconciliation.

JOIN US IN OUR STRUGGLE FOR AUTONOMY! (all caps as shown)

(Signed) Movement for Tuzla's Autonomy]

Army Condemns UNPROFOR 'Interference'

AU2810162093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] On 26 October this year, General (Hesselberg), commander of the Sector North, arranged a meeting

between Fikret Abdic and Colonel Isak, commander of the Banija Corps, reports the Press Center of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

During their meeting, Fikret Abdic and Colonel Isak discussed the demilitarization of Bosnian (?units), which represents yet another in a series of betraying activities by Fikret Abdic.

This meeting raises the question of on whose approval or order did General (Hesselberg), commander of the Sector North, organize negotiations on the demilitarization of any part of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and why such important issues should be discussed by Fikret Abdic, who is not a representative of the legal authorities and has not be empowered by the legal organs of authority to negotiate with the aggressor?

The General Staff of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina considers such a meeting organized by certain UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] generals, in this case by General (Hesselberg), as direct interference in the internal affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina. No one, especially not Fikret Abdic, self-proclaimed leader of the so-called autonomous province of western Bosnia, has the right to trade the territory of the state of Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially not the territory defended by the 5th Corps of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which has managed to repel, through its organization and superhuman efforts, all attacks by four aggressor corps on the Bihac region in the past one and a half years.

This was stated in a communique issued by the Press Center of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Muslim Commander for Mostar Dismissed

LD2810154693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1347 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Trebinje, 28 Oct (TANJUG)—The command of the [Bosnian] Serb forces for the Mostar-Nevesinje sector of the Herzegovina front reported today that Croatian forces established control over the Malo Polje area, five kilometers south of the center of Mostar, following last night's round of fighting in the southern sector of the Mostar valley between the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] and forces loyal to Alija Izetbegovic.

Serb military sources claim that the commander of the Muslim army's fourth corps, Arif Pasalic, has been stripped of his rank and replaced by Safet Orucevic. The same source says that the dismissal was a result of the latest Muslim defeats in the Neretva river valley. [passage omitted]

Serbs Use 'Irritant Chemical Agents' in Sarajevo

AU2810153993 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Information Service of the 1st Corps of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina correspondent's report]

[Text] This afternoon, the enemy continued to behave in line with its old scenario. Having fiercely shelled the first lines of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Serbian soldiers again tried to carry out an infantry attack [words indistinct]. Of course, this attack was met with the defenders' fierce fire and the Serbian (?hordes) had to pull back to their initial positions. Judging by the way the aggressor carried out this attack, it is obvious that its combat morale is seriously shaken, and we know why. The lines of the defenders of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina on this part of the Sarajevo front are stable and firm.

The message of the fighters of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina on the front lines to the aggressor is that all their future attacks will be met with fierce fire, as was the case this morning. According to the Information Service of the 1st Army Corps, this morning the aggressor used irritant chemical agents. Six projectiles filled with this agent were fired from mortars.

Izetbegovic Stresses Importance of Aid

AU2810193293 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina, has sent a telegram of condolences to Nicholas Morris, special envoy of the UNHCR for the former Yugoslavia, following the death of a UNHCR driver near Vitez. The telegram states:

I am expressing my condolences following the death of the UNHCR driver near Vitez on 25 October, who was in the humanitarian aid convoy. An investigation was launched shortly after the incident. According to the initial findings, the convoy found itself in the crossfire of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Croatian Defense Council [HVO]. The results of the investigation will soon be revealed.

I feel obliged to draw your attention to the fact that 1 million people depend on humanitarian convoys and that every interruption in deliveries causes the death of innocent people. We highly respect the work that you are performing and will do everything possible to help you in this work.

This was stated at the end of the telegram of Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Tudjman Speaks in Koprivnica, Virovitica

LD2810120093 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2135 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Report by Darko Herceg]

[Text] [Herceg] President Franjo Tudjman and his aides, who arrived in Koprivnica this morning, were welcomed at Ban Jelacic Square by the prefect of Koprivnica-Krizevci county, Ivan Stancer; the mayor of Koprivnica, Vinko Spicko; and many residents. Tudjman thanked them for their warm welcome and said, among other things:

[Begin recording] The main task facing our nation, facing Croatia, is the liberation of the Croatian areas still occupied by Serbs. As you know, the Croatian Government, the entire Croatian nation have focused on the solving of that problem by political means. Our attempts to find a peaceful solution, however, have so far not met with a positive response on the part of those who launched the aggression against Croatia, who did not want a free and independent Croatia, and who wanted to cut off certain Croatian areas just because the Serbian minority lives there. This is why we had to launch, as you know, military operations to liberate the Maslenica straits. Later we had to launch other offensives in the Gospic area to prevent further terrorist raids and thwart attempts of harassing Croatian areas.

By doing all this we have proved to our enemies that despite all our efforts to solve the problem of the occupied areas under the peace forces' protection by political and peaceful means, if necessary, we are determined to and capable of liberating all Croatian areas by the use of military force. [applause]

This task is still ahead of us: We have to complete the liberation of the temporarily occupied areas that are under the peace forces' protection.

In line with the demands of the international community to solve all problems by peaceful means, we will continue trying. We will present concrete proposals to provide civil and ethnic rights for the misled Serbs in those areas, to prove to them that they can live in peace and harmony with the Croatian nation, that they can live like normal people, and not in misery and fear. We will give them all guarantees in the framework of international conventions and we hope that they will understand this.

Belgrade, which led them into the war against the Croatian state and which still lends them support, but which has found itself in terrible misery, will have to understand this as well. By propagating its imperialistic policy of creating a greater Serbia, Belgrade has provoked not only the international isolation and the condemnation of the whole world, but it is also living through an economic disaster. Their inflation is unrivaled anywhere in the world since the end of the First World War. They have found themselves in the hell resulting from their policies. We hope that this situation will force both those in Belgrade and those in Knin and Baranja finally to understand that they cannot go against Croatia, Europe, and the whole world.

We are extending them the hand of peace. We are in favor of normalizing relations to avoid further victims and include the whole of Croatia in the economic revival, because the Croatian nation has already achieved the national and political revival.

By its latest measures the Croatian Government is resolutely tackling the problem of economic recovery. The measures taken by the Croatian Government to curb the inflation and create the stable basis for economic development have met with unanimous support on the part of the Croatian nation and the international public. This public has again been surprised by the strength displayed by the Croatian nation, which has alone and without anyone's assistance proved capable of taking economic steps that will in the economic field place Croatia among developed countries, among the free market countries. These measures will also make Croatia a country with all potential to develop not only as well as other democratic countries, but also as well as other economically developed countries.

In 1991 the world could not believe how Croatia managed to stand up to the Yugo-communist army and defend itself from the aggression committed against it by former Yugoslavia and Serbia, by one of the mightiest armies in Europe. The world was amazed and had to recognize Croatia. It had to acknowledge the resolve of the Croatian people, the wisdom of the Croatian Government, and its capability to lead the Croatian nation out of the inferno of communist Yugoslavia and the socialist system.

The world is now asking itself how we managed to ensure that not one single Croat went hungry in a Croatia exposed to aggression and suffering from the consequences of war. One third of it was under occupation at first. We then liberated some regions and now only one fourth remains occupied. How did Croatia manage to accomplish all that under such circumstances and even achieve economic progress without famine taking its toll?

Moreover, Croatia summoned the resources to feed and accommodate 300,000 Croats expelled from those occupied regions... [pauses] no, there were 500,000 of them altogether—with the refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The world was asking itself where those resources, where all that came from. It slowly realized that this was because the Croatian people had experienced their national and democratic renaissance, because all Croats—both at home and abroad—were ready to produce the effort and turn this newly acquired political freedom into a state of their own that would be ruled by law and that would have an economic system capable of ensuring the prosperity of all Croats.

The world wonders where we have found the courage and strength to take steps to stabilize our economy at this moment, despite the fact that the world has not given us one single dollar in loans. The world has shown understanding for our aspirations and loaned us humanitarian aid. However, the world—both European and world powers—have had various plans of their own in this area, in the territory of former Yugoslavia. This is why they waited for the events to develop to see what would happen. The West has granted financial aid to all East European and Baltic countries to further its own interests. However, despite that aid, the situation in all those countries is far worse than in Croatia.

The world has wondered—and as our people would say, crossed their heart in wonder—how the Croats and Croatia could go through all that and still make progress. This is why they recognized us and hold us in ever greater esteem, and we command respect even among those who did not want to respect us. Today Croatia is a recognized country with diplomatic relations. Furthermore, it has developed relations with many European and American countries, and even with distant China, which has the largest population in the world and is becoming a great world power in all respects. So, Croatia has very developed relations with that country, and also with the world's greatest power such as the United States. Croatia's international position is secured, while its economic position, as I have said, surprises the world. Our latest steps will certainly create conditions for our Croatia to become what we want it to become when we began to fight for its freedom and independence, when we wanted Croatia to be a respectable country among the free nations and states of the world. [end recording]

[Herceg] After he inaugurated a new digital telephone exchange in the Koprivnica post office, President Tudjman went to Virovitica where he was welcomed at Holy Trinity Square by the prefect [of Virovitica-Podravina county], Stjepan Mikolcic; the mayor of Virovitica, Petar Budisa; and the commander of the Osijek operational zone, Major-General Djuro Decak, on behalf of the assembled citizens of the Virovitica-Podravina county. Greeting the assembled people, President Tudjman said:

[Begin recording] [Tudjman] I have been promising for a long time to General Decak, your prefect, and other local officials that I will visit Virovitica. Thank you for your warm welcome, on my behalf and on behalf of my associates. Now I am here, let me say that I was also here exactly half a century ago, precisely, in 1944 and 1945. The prefect has now said that we finally have a Croatian state, but let us remember what happened half a century ago and what is happening now.

I was here in Virovitica when Croatia was divided in two, separated and waging an internal war; when, following the break up of the monarchist Yugoslavia, the Croatian nation thought that they would finally have their own Croatian state. This is why a large part of the Croatian nation accepted the proclamation of the Independent State of Croatia [Nazi puppet state formed in the Second Wold War], initially believing that this would be their state and that it would survive. However, it turned out soon afterwards that the independent state was formed in the framework of Hitler's new order in Europe and of the fascist Europe, that Germany and Italy were losing the war, and that therefore the Croatian nation could not realize its century-old dream of having and preserving its own state within the boundaries of the Independent State of Croatia.

This is why a section of the Croatian nation joined the anti-fascist struggle to fight—along with the partisans in the framework of the anti-fascist movement under the leadership of Tito who was an ally in the anti-fascist democratic coalition formed by England, France, America, and the Soviet Union—for Croatia, and not for communism, regardless of the fact that the communists lead the anti-fascist struggle.

This is how, half a century ago, Croatia found itself divided, separated in two, fighting against itself: home guards and Ustashas on one side, the partisans on the other. [end recording]

[Herceg] President Tudjman went on to say that today all Croats are united. In his speech in Virovitica he particularly stressed the problem of the Croatian areas still occupied by Serbs, which is one of the main tasks facing Croatia. Croatia extends the hand of peace to the rebel Serbs in those areas, but if they do not accept it:

[Begin Tudjman recording] We do not want war. We want to reintegrate the occupied areas into Croatia's constitutional and legal system by peaceful means. We have offered to the Serbs in Croatia, and we are still offering them, all civil rights and full (?cultural) autonomy under the condition that they recognize democratic Croatia and Croatia's democratic authorities if they want to remain in Croatia, if they want to live in the areas where they have lived so far.

If they do not accept our hand of peace, they would have to experience a total collapse. Of course, in that event we would suffer victims as well, and because we want to avoid those victims, we advocate a political solution. However, we have demonstrated our determination to them [the Serbs in Croatia] and to the world that, if the Serbs fail to accept a political solution and the normalization of relations, Croatia is ready to and capable of introducing its constitutional and legal system throughout its territory by using all potential available to it now. [end recording]

Granic Condemns Stupni Dol Massacre in Bosnia

LD2810193393 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Mate Granic, Croatian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, has issued a statement saying:

The events in the village of Stupni Dol have, in the worst possible way, confirmed previously expressed forebodings that if a political solution is not found as soon as possible, a tragic chain of crimes is going to occur in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina that will be impossible to control. The Republic of Croatia resolutely condemns the crime perpetrated in the course of fighting between Muslim formations and units of the Croatian Defense Council in the village of Stupni Dol near Vares, on 23 October.

The crime that took place in Stupni Dol was perpetrated in a Croatian enclave that has for months been under Muslim siege, with which even the local Croatian authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina have been communicating with difficulty, at the time of the Muslim offensive and the Croatian counteroffensive in that area.

Despite that, the Republic of Croatia demands that the initiated and unbiased investigation is completed as soon as possible, and that perpetrators are duly punished, the statement says.

The Muslim-Croat clashes in central Bosnia that have been going on for months have been causing great damage to the Republic of Croatia and the entire Croat people. At the same time, they have been increasing and multiplying casualties of both nations. The Republic of Croatia has recently accommodated new 6,000 Croat refugees from the area of Vares, i.e. from the area where Stupni Dol is situated.

All these events are in contravention of an agreement signed between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and are indicative of a necessity to intensify the Muslim-Croat negotiations on all contentious issues in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and wider international actions for the settlement of the crisis in former Yugoslavia in order to prevent similar crimes perpetrated by any of the sides, concludes the statement by Mate Granic.

Stoltenberg Discusses Possible Peace Conference

LD2810175993 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] A peace conference will be organized when all necessary conditions are met, Thorvald Stoltenberg, cochairman of the Geneva conference and UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] chief coordinator, said on arrival in Zagreb today. The conference must be well prepared so that it does not become a goal unto itself. Controversial issues must be resolved at this conference, said Stoltenberg, who arrived in Zagreb from Geneva. He left open the possibility of going to Belgrade and declined to comment on the mediation of Ambassador Knut Vollebaek between the Croatian authorities and representatives of Serbs from the occupied Croatian areas before receiving his own personal copy of the report.

Krajina Assembly Discusses Final Election Date

AU2810095393 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Report by Dragoljub Stankic from Plitvice]

[Text] The beginning of the assembly session is scheduled for 1100. There are a lot of uncertainties prior to today's, third session, after two postponements due to lack of a quorum. However, one thing is certain; elections in the republic of Serbian Krajina are inevitable and they will take place for certain. When this will be, will be decided by the Krajina Assembly, after it assesses the results of preparations for elections completed so far.

Let me remind you that it was decided at the latest session that the elections should be held on 21 November. Many requests were made in the meantime, however, asking that the elections be postponed. We have learned that conditions have been fulfilled for deciding on the final date of the elections at today's, last session of the republic of Serbian Krajina Assembly in its present form.

The deputies will review the report of the committee which has investigated and established all the facts connected with the tragic events of 9 September, when the Croatian Army invaded the villages around Medak. According to Assembly Chairman Mile Paspalj, the committee's report is complete and objective, so it is to be expected that the deputies will not hold a long debate on the subject. This is all for now from Plitvice.

President To Be Elected 12 Dec

LD2910020893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2253 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Plitvice, 28 Oct (TANJUG)—The extraordinary session of the republic of Serb Krajina Assembly ended late this evening with the decision to hold multiparty parliamentary elections at all levels, as well as the elections for president of the state, on 12 December this year.

The above deadline is a compromise between opposite stands: to hold the elections on 21 December as the Assembly decided earlier, or on 19 December as proposed later. The new deadline was set by the consensus of representatives of the political parties and on the basis of this party agreement Assembly President Mile Paspalj called the elections. [passage omitted]

Deputies Stress Unity

AU2810203893 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] After five hours of debate behind closed doors on the political and security situation, the deputies of the Krajina parliament called a short break. Here is a report by our special correspondent Dragoljub Stankic:

[Begin recording] [Stankic] Following two sessions that had been interrupted due to the lack of a quorum and a rather sharp debate at that time, the deputies were, as we have learned, at this session, very soberly and calmly presenting constructive views that warned that the 9 September tragedy in Medak could repeat itself. Here is assembly chairman Mile Paspalj:

[Paspalj] Today's debate concentrated on two reports; one submitted by the commission consisting of the army and the police and the other by a parliamentary security commission. It transpired that both reports are approximately the same. They only differ in minor matters. These reports were supplemented by a group of citizens from Divoselo—women, fighters, mothers, and fathers—who had come and presented their impressions in the talks with me, which lasted approximately an hour, which I was to convey to the assembly. Their testimonies point precisely at what I have been saying: Few people, a large territory, but also sloppiness and responsibility at all levels.

Regarding this issue, we will propose that the assembly orders the supreme command to carry out all changes that they consider necessary and investigate the responsibility of all those who have been named—some names I have even mentioned here—and the residents of Divoselo, Citluk, and the parts of territory occupied by the ustasha army, have told me this, too. I believe that this case must be an example to everybody so that it will not happen again.

However, there is another important thing that has happened in the assembly today. Namely, at this latest, in my opinion, last session before the elections, a different tune has prevailed. All speakers have spoken in favor of the unity of the territory of the republic of Serbian Krajina and the unity of all of us here so that this would spread to residents and that the people would realize that the state, from Benkovac to Beli Manastir, is one.

[Stankic] It is expected that, in the course of the evening, the deputies of the assembly of the republic of Serbian Krajina will endorse the report by the commission and the parliamentary commission on the tragic event and leave it to the incumbent organs to establish individual responsibility.

The deputies will also set the final date for the new elections. Namely, 21 November had been set at the previous sessions. However, numerous demands have been put forward in the meantime that, due to the little time for preparation, the elections be postponed. [end recording]

Attacks Reported Against Serbian Areas

LD2810123293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1125 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Belgrade, 28 Oct (TANJUG)—According to the ISKRA [Serb Krajina] news agency, the press center of the main headquarters of the Serb Krajina army announced this morning that one civilian lost his life in yesterday's mortar attacks launched by the Croatian Army on Gracac, Prokljan, and Cista Mala in the Skradin hinterland [northern Dalmatian front].

The most devastating Croatian attacks were reported in the Benkovac area. Tanks were shelling the Novigrad hinterland and mortar fire was directed against the wider area of Smilcic, Kasic, and Zemunik Gornji.

Mortars were pounding the wider Drnis area yesterday afternoon but fell silent last night.

According to the main headquarters of the Serb Krajina army, the night was calm on the northern Dalmatian front.

Federal

Mandate of Serbian Deputies Ceases

LD2810171293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1549 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Belgrade, 28 Oct (TANJUG)—The mandate of the federal deputies from the Republic of Serbia to the Federal Assembly's Chamber of Republics has ceased after the dissolution of the Serbian People's Assembly.

The Federal Assembly's Information Service has announced that the Republican Electoral Commission informed Milos Radulovic, president of the Federal Assembly's Chamber of the Republics about this decision.

Romanian Passenger Vessel Still Blocked

AU2810212093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1756 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Belgrade ROMPRES, 28/10/1993—The Steaua Dunarii passenger vessel is still blocked on the Danube at kilometer 1,179, in the area of Belgrade, reported a ROMPRES correspondent, who cited the Navrom SA company. The ship's captain, Fara Elisei, informed that he was allowed on Thursday, October 28, to sail to a pontoon for food and water, after which the vessel returned to the place of the blockade. Representatives of the two Serbian organizations that had blocked the ship said that they would allow the vessel to continue its route only after the Yugoslav ships stopped at Maccin [Romania] would be permitted to leave.

Thursday at night another passenger vessel of the Romanian Navrom SA company, Steaua Deltei, is likely to reach the blockade, coming from Budapest.

Institute Releases Latest Employment Figures

LD2910113393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0921 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Belgrade, 29 Oct (TANJUG)—The Federal Statistics Institute has disclosed that 2.2 million Yugoslavs were registered as employed last September. Of this figure, 130,608 are in Montenegro, and 2,097,195 in Serbia; 1,450,964 in central Serbia, 516,625 in Vojvodina, and 129,606 in Kosovo and Metohija.

The majority of employed Yugoslavs work in the industrial and mining sectors—908,509. The trade sector employs a work force of 224,696, while 176,721 are employed in education and culture, 169,103 in the health and social services sector, and 155,067 in construction.

Financial and related services are provided by 79,444 persons, while political institutions and organizations have 90,906 employees.

Serbia

Poll Shows Ruling Socialists Most Popular

AU2810211593

[Editorial Report] Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian on 25 October on pages 12 and 13 carries an approximately 3,000-word report on the results of an opinion poll on the popularity of the main political parties in Serbia prior to the December elections. The main parties are: SPS—Socialist Party of Serbia; SRS—Serbian Radical Party; DEPOS—Democratic Movement of Serbia; DS—Democratic Party; SPO—Serbian Renewal Movement; DSS—Democratic Party of Serbia

The poll was carried out by BORBA on 22 and 23 October and involves "350 respondents from nine electoral districts (that existed at the last elections). The number of respondents in each district is proportionate to the number of voters. The respondents were selected from telephone directories using the random sampling technique. One should bear in mind the fact that the sample includes only telephone owners, who, according to social research, represent a special category of population (the sample includes a negligible percent of the rural population)."

The results of the poll are expressed in percentages and are summarized as follows:

	"Current Inclination of Voters"								
	SPS	SRS	Depos	DS	SPO	DSS	Do not know	Won't vote	Other parties
Belgrade	23.4	1.6	14.1	9.3	3.1	4.7	18.7	17.2	7.8
Zrenjanin	38.2	2.9	5.9	5.9	0	2.9	23.5	11.8	8.8
Kragujevac	24.4	2.4	12.2	4.9	2.4	2.4	34.1	12.2	2.4
Leskovac	46.7	0	0	5.7	2.8	0	31.4	8.6	2.8
Nis	26.6	20	13.3	6.6	13.3	0	20	0	0
Novi Sad	36.5	2.2	6.6	4.4	4.4	4.4	31.1	22	6.6
Pristina	29.4	0	11.7	11.7	5.9	0	29.4	5.9	8.8
Uzice	29.4	0	14.7	0	0	0	44.1	8.8	2.9
Smederevo	45.2	6.4	3.2	6.4	3.2	6.4	17.7	9.6	0

"Before and Now"		
	1992	1993
SPS	41.95	32.28
SRS	8.33	4.04
Depos	18.41	15.85
DS	5.46	6.34
Other parties	4.6	4.32

According to BORBA, the "Before and Now" table shows how the respondents said they voted at the 1992 elections and how they intend to vote in 1993. The table "does not include the 'do not know's,' 'do not want to say,' and 'will not take part in elections.' Expressed in percentages, answers pertaining to these came to 21.25 percent in the 1992 elections and as much as 37.16 percent for the forthcoming elections.

"Regarding those who are 'sure' that they will take part in the upcoming elections, the SPS, according to the results of the poll, will receive 51.37 percent, Depos (SPS and DSS) 25.22 percent, the Democratic Party 10.09 percent, and the Radicals only 6.43 percent of the votes."

Seselj Accuses Socialists of Smear Campaign

LD2810193593 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1531 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 28 Oct (TANJUG)—Serbian Radical Party [SRS] President Vojislav Seselj judged today that the December [Serbian parliamentary] elections will not produce any spectacular results. He accused the [ruling] socialists of wishing to ascribe the war crimes committed in the republic of Serb Krajina [RSK] and the republic of Srpska to the radicals.

"The SRS electorate has a stable party affiliation and well-known size, so I do not expect any surprises", Seselj said at a news conference. He added that he does not believe the Socialist Party of Serbia [SPS] will win an absolute majority in the new parliament. [passage omitted]

"What we fear most is the SPS's intention to proclaim a state of emergency. They are dangerously close to such a decision, hence our low profile", Seselj said.

He justified the SRS's refusal to organize campaign rallies by saying he wishes to avoid stage-managed incidents. [passage omitted]

According to Seselj, the SPS wishes to discredit SRS members by imputing unlawful activities to them and provoking incriminating situations. He claims he received this information from sources in the Serbian Interior Ministry, the main headquarters of the Yugoslav Army, and the SPS.

Seselj said the security service of the Yugoslav Army's main headquarters has received orders, not from its military superiors but from Serbian leaders—more precisely from [former Serbian Interior Minister] Radmilo Bogdanovic—to blame all the misdeeds committed by the red berets and [Zeljko Raznjatovic] Arkan's [paramilitary] units on SRS volunteers. [passage omitted]

That is why the SRS is forming a special commission to investigate war crimes and instances of looting which, Seselj claims, were committed in the RSK and the RS by paramilitary forces that were either sent by the Serbian authorities or were very close to them—especially the red berets.

He repeated that the SRS has never had any paramilitary formations, because its members are always among the ranks of the Serbian Army and police.

Seselj also accused the Komet company, which provides security-related services, of plotting to assassinate members of certain national minorities and then blaming the murders on the SRS.

Kostunica Details Split With Depos

AU2810212893 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Statement by Vojislav Kostunica, president of the Democratic Party of Serbia; place and date not given—recording]

[Text] Regarding the Democratic Opposition of Serbia [Depos], the position of the Democratic Party of Serbia is clear.

During the last few months, the Serbian Renewal Movement and the Democratic Party of Serbia have parted politically and this parting has manifested itself in the different positions of these two parties in the parliament and outside it, in the national policy that has been pursued, in different positions regarding the vote on the budget, the budget readjustment, the no-confidence vote in the government, and regarding some other proposals that stemmed from the government, for example, the Vance-Owen plan.

These differences are so great that it seems to us that if, at one time, Depos had consisted of these two parties, that is, if these two parties formed its backbone, but after the last elections Depos does not even have joint candidates, then naturally, at least regarding the Democratic Party of Serbia, any further talks about Depos are pointless. For us, Depos is simply an episode of the past.

Macedonia

Bulgarian Weekly Claims U.S. To Build Naval Base

AU2910083793 Sofia 168 CHASA in Bulgarian 25 Oct 93 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Pentagon's Base Established in Macedonia"]

[Text] On 12 October Macedonia agreed to begin the procedure on contracting the construction of a U.S. base on its territory, a source who wishes to remain anonymous, claims.

The base is intended to facilitate the fueling and repair of bombers, fighters, transportation helicopters, and air fuel transporters, stationed on board aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean, as well as the implementation of general technical service operations needed by the U.S. Sixth Fleet. It is well-known that prior to this Greece, Italy, and Spain introduced certain restrictions related to the bases of their ally across the ocean.

Coded messages have been exchanged between the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. State Department during the period of 22 September-5 October. Those messages have been intercepted and information has been obtained from them. According to the source, Macedonia has requested U.S. guarantees to protect its sovereignty. In reply to this request a coded message of the U.S. State Department of 25 September stresses that "the United States will give priority to protecting Macedonian interests in the region." Simultaneously, it was pointed out that the interests of Macedonian minorities outside the borders of Macedonia will be noted. A State Department employee has promised that the Macedonian interests will be supported through the newly appointed U.S. ambassador to Bulgaria.

We remind you that in September THE WALL STREET JOURNAL reported that Skopje is expecting soon a visit by U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin. He has planned a tour of former Yugoslavia, including a visit to Macedonia in order to demonstrate the U.S. commitment to the peace processes in the region. At the same time a Skopje magazine reported that the United States has proposed constructing the military base in Krolak, near Negotin.

Officials Accused of Gasoline Smuggling

AU2810132293 Skopje MILS-NEWS in English 25 Oct 93

[Unattributed report: "PULS: Loosely Controlled Trains"]

[Text] The weekly PULS is uncovering the affair over the smuggling of petrol to Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Under the pretense that it is "for Macedonia's survival" some ministers in the former government and a delegate in parliament have made some "big bucks".

PULS published the statement made by Vice President Jovan Andonov who admitted that until now, Macedonia has survived on the basis of the violation of the sanctions. He said "the agreement was for 'Fersped,' 'Makosped,' and 'Ohris-Transfer' to take care of the freight forwarding. Their activities on an internal plan were absolutely of no interest to us."

Uncovering the Government's participation in the petrol smuggling affair, PULS said that with every tonne of the "black gold" smuggled into Serbia, the state earned US$ 50, while the Macedonian forwarders took US$ 150.

The state control departments have no information of the amount of petrol sold to Serbia. All transactions were paid in cash, therefore the profit was not recorded.

The international monitoring units on the border itself also took part in the "great transport," PULS reveals. Their tariffs depended on the rank. An ordinary "UNPROFOR" soldier charged 500 German Marks for each truck allowed to pass, while those with higher ranks charged "a bit more."

The newspaper adds that the transportation of the petrol through the territory of Macedonia resembled a Western story. The forwarding company would obtain documents from the Macedonian Chamber of Commerce that the petrol was intended for Macedonia. Therefore, the composition would cross the Macedonian-Greek border without any problems. The payment of the state, customs and other taxes, instead of being done at the border in front of "unwanted witnesses" would be carried out inside the country. The main transaction was made when new wagons, filled with petrol owned by private companies, and headed for Serbia as a final destination, would be attached at the end of the railway composition. Such a convoy would speed toward the Serbian border and cross it without any delays.

This affair was revealed when the origin of a quarter of 50,000 tonnes of petrol was uncovered, which the smugglers failed to transport through the border. This petrol has been detained at the Serbian-Macedonian border for more than two months, since the Macedonian Government decided to uphold the sanctions. The owners of this petrol are owners of the "arrested petrol" is the former Minister of Economy Stojan Trajanovski and his company "Tikon".

UNPROFOR Denies Complicity

AU2810132493 Skopje MIC in English 27 Oct 93

[Unattributed report: "UNPROFOR Denies Involvement in Petrol Smuggling"]

[Text] The UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR] command in Macedonia today denied the accusations about involvement in smuggling of petrol from Macedonia to FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia], in the article published by PULS entitled "Loosely Controlled Trains."

In the announcement from the editor of PULS, signed by the Commander of UNPROFOR for Macedonia, Gen. Fin Semari Tomsen, it is stated:

"In reference to the article published by PULS on 22 October entitled 'Loosely Controlled Trains,' UNPROFOR-FYROM [Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia] Command categorically denies the accusations about involvement in smuggling.

Furthermore, UNPROFOR reminds you of the well known fact (which you fail to mention in the article) that we have no autonomy to enforce sanctions or to stop trains on the borders of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). This is solely the responsibility of the FYROM Government. We also note that the author does not cite any sources for these unfounded allegations."

UNPROFOR command states that these allegations, are in essence, scurrilous, unsubstantiated, and a prime example of irresponsible and sensationalist journalism.